


Gc
977.502
So5o
1737747

M. L.

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION



3 1833 01077 0920



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2024

<https://archive.org/details/mymemoirshistory00ozan>



MY MEMOIRS

History Leading Up to the Establishing
of the Town of Somers, County
of Kenosha, State of Wisconsin



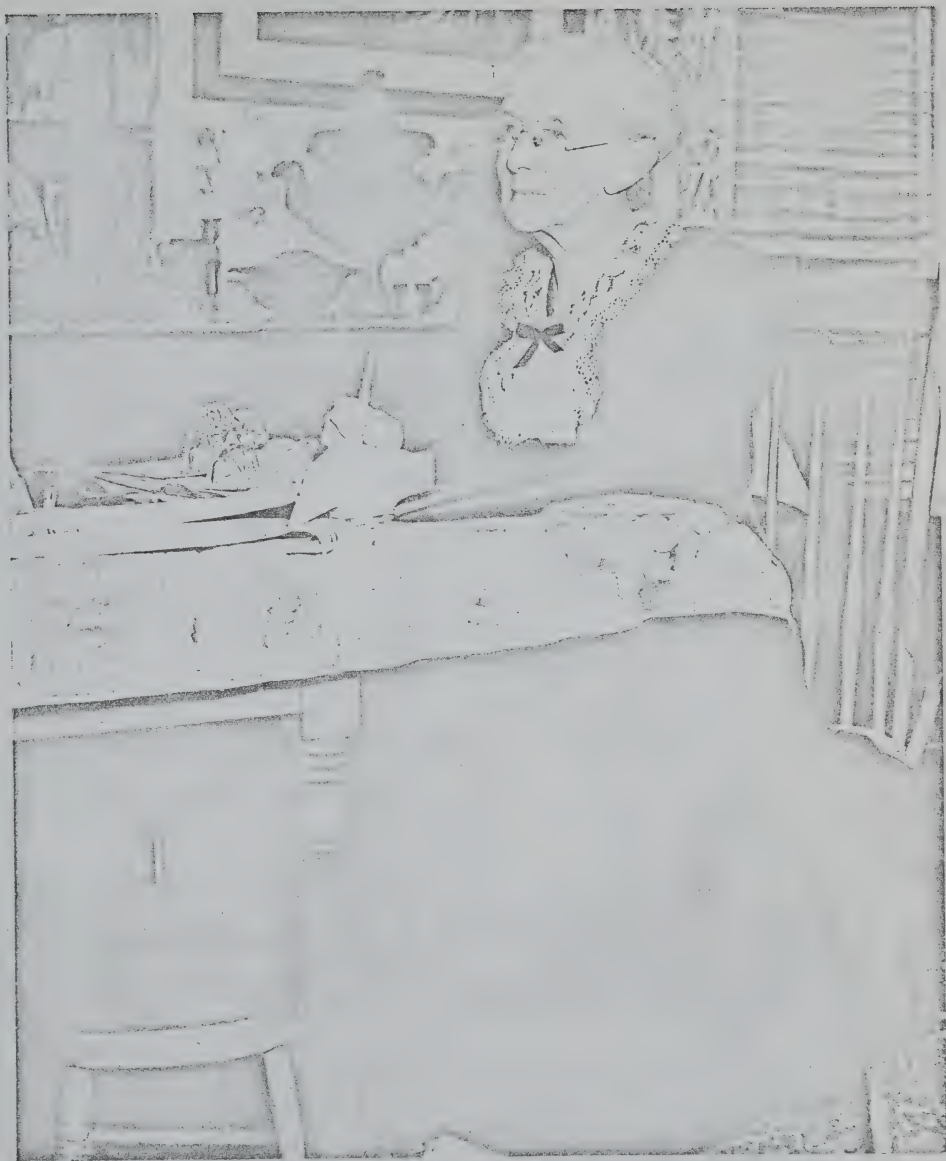
563

By MINNIE A. G. OZANNE

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
OF
FOOT LAMBE & ALLEN CO. INC.

1737747

*Dedicated
To Those Pioneers Who Came and Stayed*



Minnie A. G. Ozanne

FOREWORD

In recalling the civic relations of Our Township, and to give you a proper view of its locality, this brief account may interest you.

This immediate locality, now known as the Township of Somers, has been, successively, under the jurisdiction of Spain, France, Great Britain, and America. At different periods, in connection with the latter, it was a part of the state of Virginia, of the Northwest Territory, of the Territory of Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan, before becoming a territory itself in 1836. In 1848, it was admitted into the Union.

It was in 1833 that the Indians ceded their title to southeastern Wisconsin, and the settling and developing of this beautiful, then wilderness country, is my story.



The Green Bay Trail



Lowell, the Poet, said, "Fishers, and Choppers and Plowmen, Shall Constitute a State."

It was in the early spring (March) of the year 1835, that Jacob Montgomery, a trapper, with his two sons, built a log cabin on the banks of Pike River, near the beautiful spring on the property now owned by your narrator.

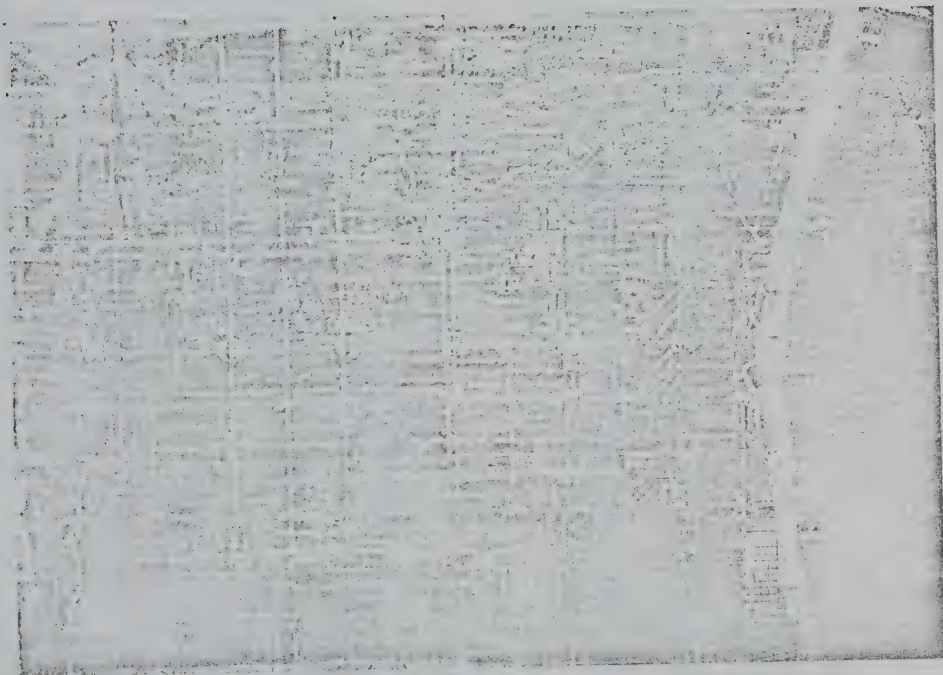
To this trapper and his sons belongs the honor of making the First Settlement in the Town of Somers, then-called Pike, and also to him belongs the honor of the First Settlement in Kenosha County. Within a short time sturdy settlers followed; then came schools, churches, mail service, and Our Township. Montgomery remained here about eight years.

The story of The Town of Somers follows the old Indian Trail, which later became the Government Road, known as the Green Bay Road, and, from this, Our Town branched out, and today, its progress and prosperity are indicated by the advance from the ox team, to the automobile and motor truck, the rude log cabins, to the palatial homes, and modernized farms.

This Green Bay Trail, established by the Federal Government, between Chicago and Milwaukee, and on north, in 1832, was of great importance to the Territory of Wisconsin, in binding together the East and the West. It was surveyed and marked out, in the spring of 1835, and the first of the historic markers placed along this noted highway, was set a short distance north of the site of the first cabin in Our Town, and was dedicated on September 29, 1927, under the auspices of the Wisconsin Society of Chicago. This marker (at the entrance of the Petrifying Springs Park) is a concrete post bearing a bronze plate, inscribed as follows:

"GREEN BAY ROAD
PIONEER ROAD
CHICAGO TO GREEN BAY
ESTABLISHED BY THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
1832"





A reprint of pen and ink map of Somers Township drawn by S. Y. Brande in 1857 and presented to James E. Spencer in 1896, who later presented it to the Kenosha Historical Society.

Trails

*"Old Roads, winding as Old Roads will,
Here to the ferry, and there to the mill,
With glimpses of chimneys and gabled eaves
Through green elm arches and maple leaves."*

Our Town's history was interwoven with the development of its highways. These first trails were but "trodden paths" over which our early settlers trod. In these modern days of travel by steam, electrically lighted coaches, we can hardly appreciate the long weary trips. Our Pioneers traveled by ox team or horseback across country.

Plank Roads

The Plank Roads were the first improvement over these trails and main traveled highways. The Racine and Wilmot Plank Road, beginning at what is now Washington Avenue, Racine, and continuing in a southwesterly direction to Wilmot, was incorporated March 23, 1852, with a capital stock of \$45,000. This road passed along the Green Bay Trail through Our Town, in a southwesterly direction and was built of pine planks two inches thick and eight feet long, nailed to stringers four inches square. These stringers were laid lengthwise with the road, and the plank laid at right angles to, or across. For the most part, these planks were brought to Racine by boat from the Michigan and Wisconsin saw mills. The road track was eight feet wide, except at the turn-outs at certain intervals. Saw mills in Racine county furnished oak plank for some roads. These stood the wear and tear of traffic, and the disintegrating effect of mud and water, better than did the pine.

Along these highways were toll gates where toll at the rate of one cent per mile for a vehicle drawn by one animal, was charged, and one cent per mile extra, for each additional animal; three cents per mile for a score of sheep or swine, and four cents per mile for a score of neat cattle. Funeral parties were exempt from toll.

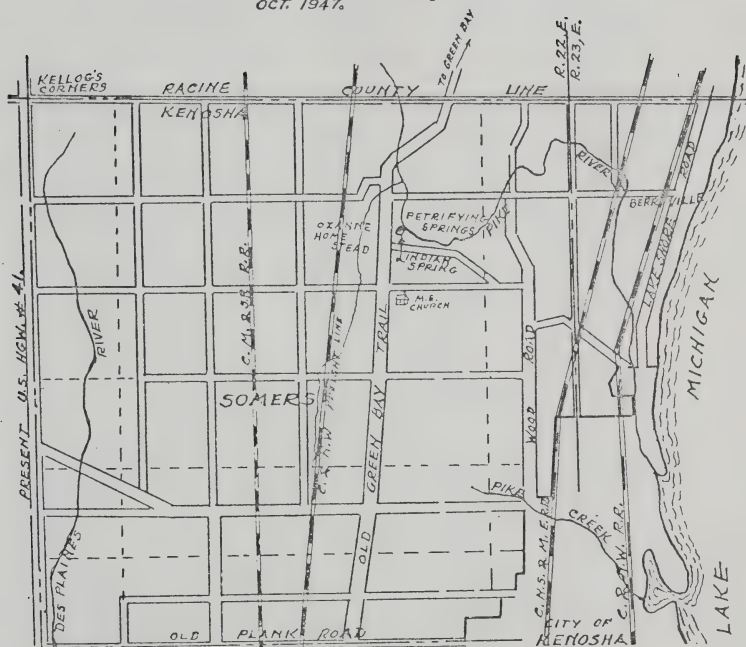
Isn't it interesting to know that the origin of our now beautiful highways was once but a trail?

They tell us that the buffaloes were our first road engineers, and the paths they trod were followed by the Indians, and then by our pioneers, as they came and stayed.



SOMERS, TODAY.

OCT. 1947.





The buffalo would choose the most practicable route in his migration from one pasture to another, and the Indian, whose instinct was comparable to that of the buffalo, made no improvement, but left all to the white man.

A toll gate was established at the tavern built by Charles Leet, in 1842, on the Green Bay Trail.

Chapter 52 of the Laws of 1852 provided that any person who should turn off the road near a toll gate, for the purpose of defrauding the company, or to deceive the gate keeper as to the distance traveled, should be punished by a fine not exceeding ten dollars.

Another plank road was built between Somers and Pleasant Prairie.

Another "trail" that became very important in Our Town was along its west boundary, the old Kilbourn Road, along which many of our pioneers established their homes. This "trail" too had been travelled by the buffalo and deer and the Red man.

The early settlers along this "trail" were the Heidersdorf's, the Peter Meyer's, the James Buckley's, the Richard Lee's, the Theodore Funk's, the Peter Schaeffer's, and the Phillipp Dressell's.

Town of Pike

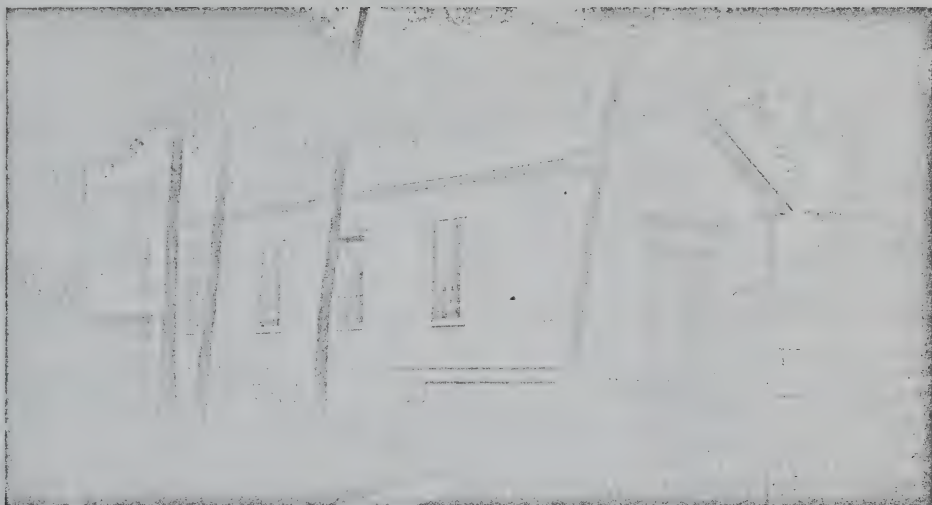
Our Town was called Pike by act of legislature, on April 15, 1843, and was changed to Somers April 1, 1851.

The first town meeting of the town of Pike was held May 1, 1843, at the house of Charles Leet (still standing) on the Green Bay Trail, in the town of Pike, county of Racine, held according to an act of the legislature of Wisconsin, passed April 15, 1843. Joseph P. Hurlbut was chosen Moderator of said meeting, and sworn in. Oscar Hurlbut was chosen Clerk, and sworn in, and due notice was given of the opening and closing of the polls.

It was in 1850 Racine county divided, and the south part became Kenosha county; Kenosha being the Indian name for Pike. On April 25, 1857, a vote prevailed to build a Town House for \$400, and the first meeting held in the Town House was in April, 1859. The Town House is still in use.

Financial and tax statements show the growth of value, and tax comparisons. In 1843—October 3—Received from the Town Clerk a list of taxes for the year 1843 to the amount of:





*Methodist Church built at Kelloggs Corners 1837-1840.
Somers services discontinued in 1910.*



*Methodist Church—Built in 1863 near the Green Bay Trail.
Moved to the Village in 1889.*

For County	\$247.39
For support of poor in Town of Pike.....	25.00
For contingent expenses	100.00
Total	<hr/> \$372.39

Our Churches - - - First Church

In the spring of 1837 three Kellogg brothers, with their families, came with ox teams and covered wagons, overland from Goshen, Connecticut, and settled at Kelloggs Corners, the northwestern corner of Our Town. These families were influential and useful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church. These brothers were Chauncey, Seth, and Thaddeus. The first sabbath after their arrival, they, with their families, gathered in one of the rude shanties, just constructed, and held a prayer meeting and Sunday school. Mrs. Seth Kellogg was chosen as the first superintendent. Ten persons attended the first meeting. Twenty-three years later, 1860, a Sunday school festival was held, with an attendance of 300 children.

The result of this first prayer meeting in 1837, was the establishment of the Methodist church that was completed in 1840, being the first, not only in Our Town, but also in the state.

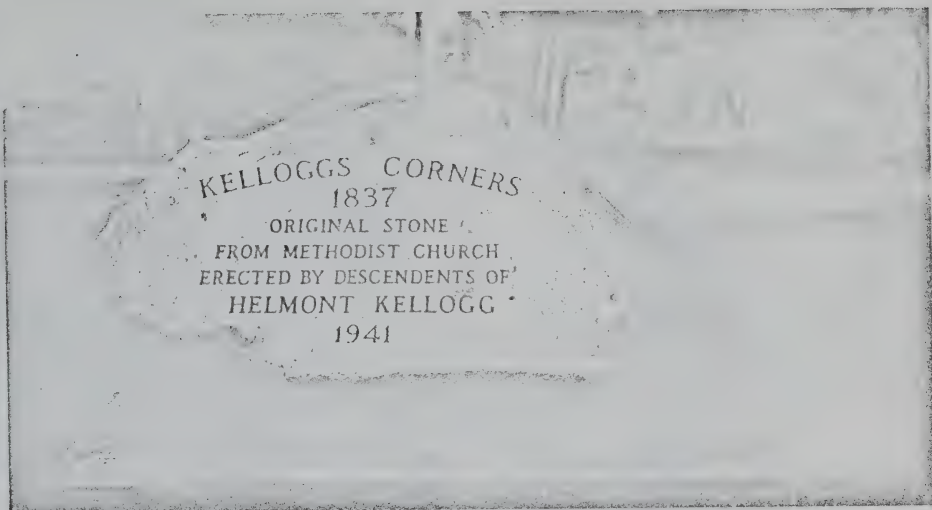
The timbers were hand hewn of solid oak, and the nails and braces were also hand made, by Austin Kellogg. The benches and the pews were planed from trees nearby.

The Rev. Julius Field, who had joined the community, dedicated the building, and was its first pastor. It is told that Francena Medora, small daughter of the Chauncey Kellogg's, held the dust-pan, as her sister swept up the chips made by her father as he finished the pews, on the morning of the dedication.

In 1913-1914, the building, not in use longer for church services, was sold, taken down, and the timbers, in splendid state of preservation, were used in the building of a barn, that later was destroyed during a storm.

Among the local ministers were Rev. Ebenezer Washburn, known as "Father Washburn." Rev. James Ozanne, John Collett, and Joshua Collier. Among the ordained pastors were Rev. Delos Hale, Rev. George Parsons, Rev. A. J. Benjamin, Rev. E. L. Eaton, Rev. William Rollins, Rev. E. D. Kohlsted, Rev. M. L. Norris, Rev. A. M. Sanford,

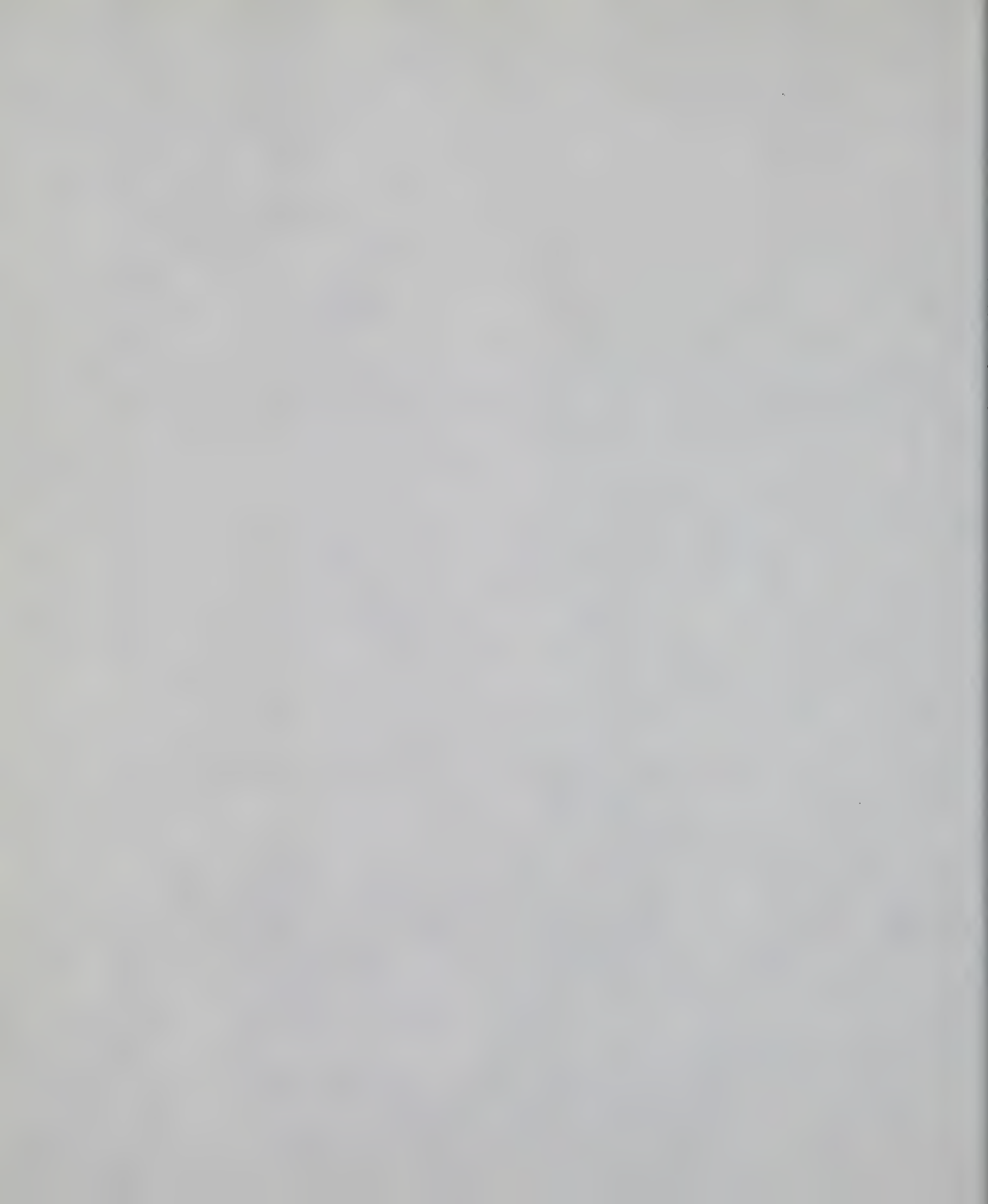




Cornerstone—Methodist Church—Kelloggs Corners.



*Presbyterian Church built on Green Bay Trail in 1839.
Moved to Village-Somers in 1886.*



and the Rev. P. T. Lawson, in 1910, being the last pastor to occupy the pulpit.

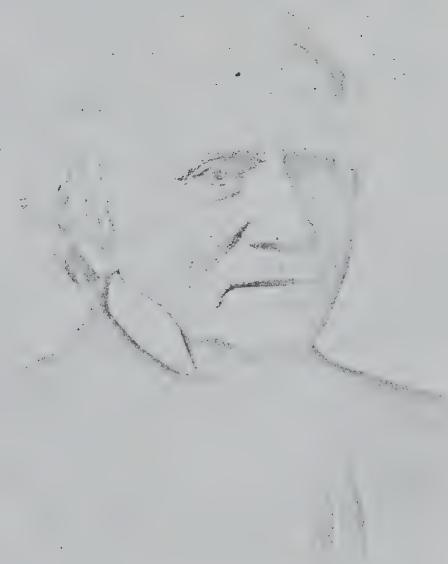
Among the Sunday school superintendents were Mrs. Seth Kellogg, the first; Amon T. Gould, serving for many years.

The day commemorating the 104th anniversary of that first prayer meeting and Sunday school, following the arrival of these Kellogg brothers and their families, to that little patch in the woods that later became known as Kelloggs Corners, some sixty of their descendants met in reunion on the site of this first church. A beautiful feature of this reunion was the dedicatory service of a large boulder that was one of the original corner-stones of the church foundation. The unveiling was by two boys, Donald Mann, of Los Angeles, California, and James Beall, of Chicago, both descendants of the Kellogg's. This boulder is beautifully engraved, and permanently set—a grand tribute to those early pioneers who came.

Churches, we say, are like people. They have individuality. This story of seventy-five and more years (1837-1913) is full of joy times, of heart throbs and aches, and funeral dirges, and, as we muse upon it, out of the past comes the faces of fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, some who were local preachers, others, class leaders, while others silently, gently ministered to friends and kindred and the stranger within their gates, all potently for good.

The Presbyterian church was built in 1839 under the direction of Rev. S. Peet. This building was most substantially constructed with heavy, hand-hewn timbers from the nearby woods. It originally stood beside the Old Indian Trail, a short distance from Our Town House, on a piece of land donated by "Uncle Billy" Smith, where it remained until 1846, when it was moved a half mile north, to a site donated by the Rev. James Ozanne and Charles Leet. As the people entered the church, they faced the congregation, so it was well to be on time. The pulpit was in an elevated alcove in the front of the church and the choir apartment was at the rear. A dark red curtain of heavy material was drawn in front of the choir after each song.

The early custom was for members to buy their pews and receive deeds for them. In the front of the building, to the right and left of the pulpit, were square pews. Mr. and Mrs. James Flett, early Scotch settlers, with their eight sons, occupied the southeast square pew. Among these sons was David Flett, who became judge of the first Municipal Court in Racine. Mr. and Mrs. William Robertson and their seven children occupied the northeast square pew.



*Rev. Peter Dougherty—Pastor of the Presbyterian Church
for many years. "The Grand Old Man."*

In the summer of 1886 the church was moved to Somers village.

The first pastor was Rev. O. V. Curtiss, who served 1839-1840. Another early minister was Rev. John Gridley, who served eighteen years. Rev. Peter Dougherty "Grand Old Man" was with the church, as its pastor, seventeen years, and Rev. James Ozanne was also an early pastor.

A Methodist church was built in 1863 near the intersection of the Green Bay Trail and the Somers Road, and after many years, it, too, was moved to The Village, Somers, in 1889, and was rededicated.

At a meeting on Sunday afternoon, July 21, 1918, joint committees of these two churches considered the joining of the organizations, the name to be The Somers Federated Church. This continued until September, 1921, when it became Congregational. The Methodist building and site were sold, and the former Presbyterian building was remodeled, using the original part of this building built in 1839, and it has passed a century of continuous service.

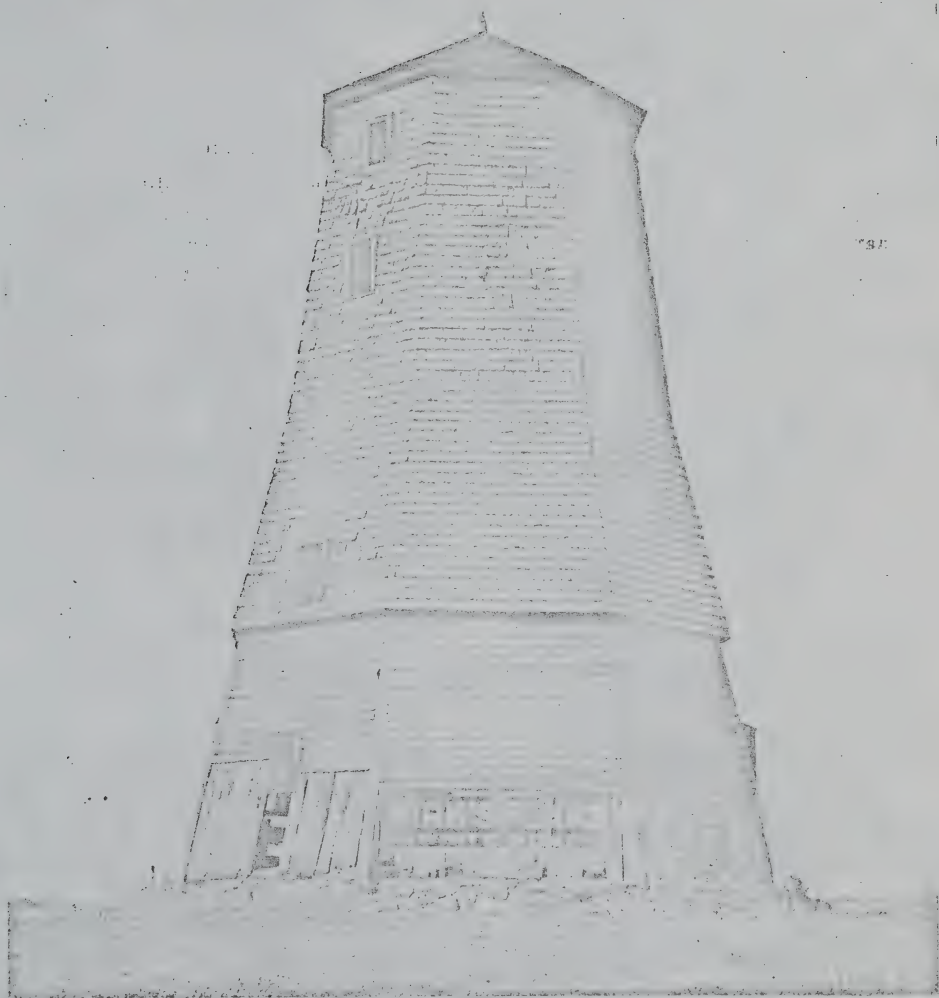
Many young students of Evanston Seminary made their maiden addresses in this Methodist church, and later advanced to larger fields of labor. Among the early prominent singers in these churches were Cyrus Stover, Joseph Bradley, Isaac Longwell, Webster Reas, Peter Ozanne, John G. Mitchell, Misses Anna and Marie Jordon, Mrs. Ann Rhodes Longley, Miss Florence Spencer, the three Jordon brothers, and Fannie Gould Mitchell.

"The Grand Old Man"

More than a hundred years ago, on a Sunday morning in June, a sweet-toned bell called the Chippewa Indians of Grand Traverse, Michigan, to the initial services in their new log church, for the first time. This sweet-toned bell meant much to these Indians and to their missionary, the Rev. Peter Dougherty, as they had contributed their English copper pennies to be sent to a foundry in New York State, where they were cast into this bell, to be hung in the new church belfry. On that Sunday morning in June, communion was held for twelve Chippewa Indians, six men, and six women, who stood below the new church pulpit altar, and accepted the white man's religion. Rev. Peter Dougherty served the communion.

Four years before, this church was completed, and organized. Rev. Peter Dougherty, sent by the Mission Board in New York, landed on this beautiful peninsula in Grand Traverse Bay. These four years





The Old Mill
Built in Somers by the Rev. James Ozanne in the early forties.

were hard ones. Trees were cut into logs, and dragged by hand, to building sites. Log cabins replaced native wigwams, a church, a manse, a schoolhouse were built, in a cleared space in the virgin forest. After working all day Rev. Dougherty would burn the tallow drip far into the night, learning the Indian words, so he might teach the Chippewas in their own language. He taught them to cook, to sew, and to use soap and water.

The Rev. Peter Dougherty, after more than twenty years as a missionary to the Chippewas, came to Somers about 1872, and served as pastor of the Presbyterian church, until 1888. While the church stood on the Green Bay Trail, he, with his talented family, lived in the manse nearby. When the church was moved to The Village (Somers), in 1886, Rev. Dougherty went with it, and established his home there, where he died February 1, 1894. What a heritage he left to Our Community!

Somers Village

The original site for a village was at the intersection of the Green Bay Trail, and the cross-road, which became the Somers Road. But when the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway was surveyed, and built through Our Town, in 1870, the site was changed to its present location, one and one-half miles to the west. The churches followed, the post office followed, and the village grew into the thriving town it is today.

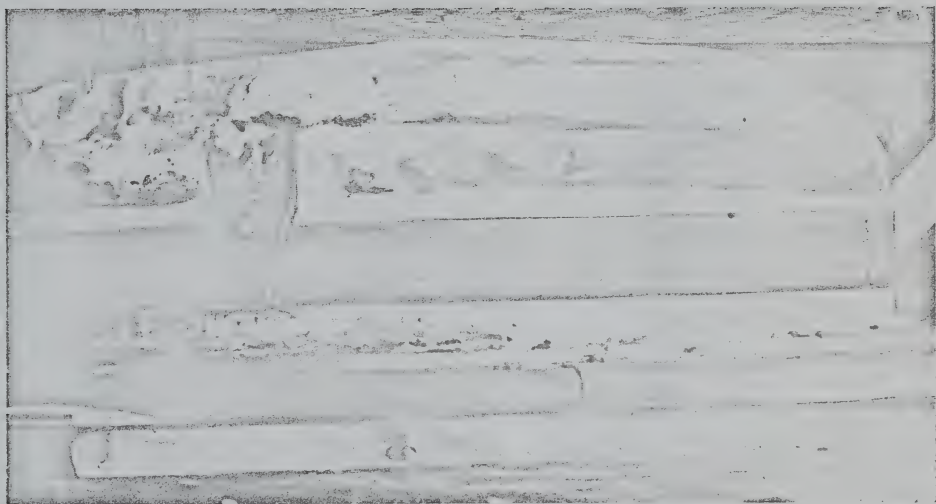
When this village site was established, many of our early pioneers built homes along its main street and retired from homestead life.

"The Old Mill"

Another relic of those pioneer days of Our Town, is gone, when farmers carried their grain to the "Old Mill" in bags, and returned home with the same bags filled with the same grain, ground into flour.

This "Old Mill" was built by the Rev. James Ozanne, an experienced miller and baker, as well as preacher, who came to Somers, then called Pike, from the Isle of Guernsey, in 1842, and established his home on the Green Bay Trail. Soon after his arrival he began the construction of this mill on his acquired property, one mile west of his home.

The "Old Mill" was an octagonal tower five stories high, built of heavy hand-hewn timbers, and beams, from the Ozanne woods. The



*The millstones brought from Boston, Mass., that ground the farmers' grain
in The Old Mill.*

foundation stones were gathered from a nearby quarry. Much time also went into the motive power, which was a huge windmill wheel also made of wood and strips of iron, while the sails on each arm were of adjustable canvas, that might be spread full to gentle breezes, and furled against threatening gales, thus controlling the speed of the wheel.

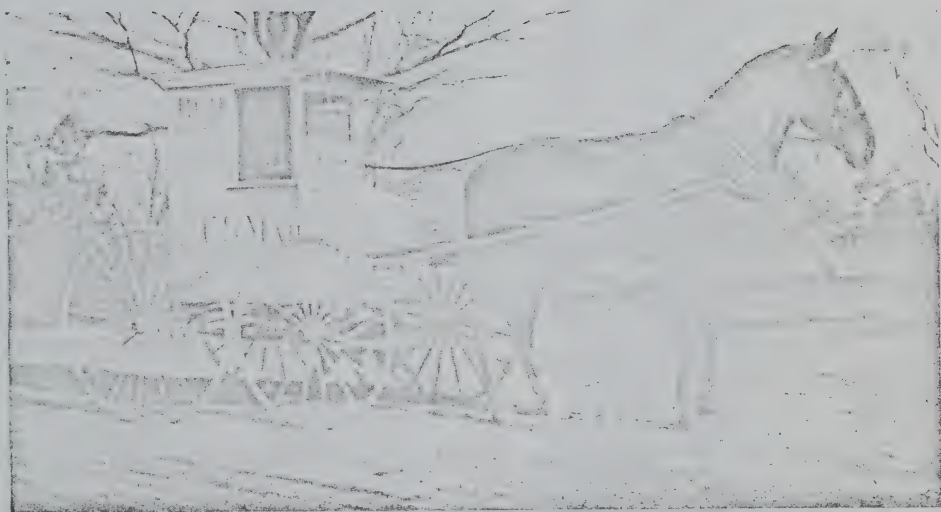
After all the timbers and the beams were methodically fitted and put together, and the mill ready for use, Rev. Ozanne hesitated to trust the selection of the grinding stones to anyone, so he journeyed to Boston, Massachusetts, where he knew desirable mill stones could be purchased. This journey required many weeks. Upon his return, he carefully placed the mill stones in position for the grinding of the farmers' grain. These mill stones were imported from France.

The grain was carried to the fifth and upper floor of the tower by a rope windless turned by a hand crank. Here it was emptied into a large hopper, and fed into the mill stones on the second floor. The grist, as it came from the mill stones, was caught in bags on the floor below. Here it was weighed on a Fairbanks-Morse scale, with a capacity of 1200 pounds, built in the Vermont factory, in 1850. The scale is still in use.

Rev. James Ozanne operated the "Old Mill" until 1868, when he sold it to Joseph Nelesen, who took it down and moved three stories of it to his farm at St. Martin's, Milwaukee county. It was reassembled, and until 1892 the heavy wheels kept turning. It required 33 heavy horse-drawn wagons to carry the "Old Mill" and its machinery, including the mill stones, from Somers to St. Martin's. For more than fifty years, the worn mill stones have lain idle. The winds, and the rains, and the winter snows have preyed upon the heavy structure, and brought decay, and the birds have nested and found shelter among its beams.

Joseph Nelesen was a native of Holland, and came to America in 1851, when a boy of 14 years. When your narrator last saw him, he was 93 years of age.

Note: A large oak stump on the high hill (now in Petrifying Springs Park) served as a view point in those early days, upon which the farmers over east would climb to see if the Ozanne Mill was working. This high spot overlooked the dense woods.



*Nicholas Erickson, Spanish American War Vet, carried mail over Rural Free Delivery
Route No. 37 out from Kenosha, through Somers Town.
The Route later became R.F.D. No. 4.*

Government Observatory

In 1860 a government observatory was built on the farm of William Robertson, on the Green Bay Trail, at a height of 72 feet. Before this tower was built, the lake level was taken from the kitchen roof of the Robertson home. On the top of this tower was placed an old arm chair belonging to Mr. Robertson, this point on the Green Bay Trail being the highest point between Chicago and Milwaukee. Government stones are said to be still there.

Mail Service and Post Office

Standing today, on the Green Bay Trail, is an old frame building that was erected in the early days of Our Town, then known as the Town of Pike, which today is the Elmer Maxwell home—then it was the George Willis tavern.

It was there the first post office in Our Town was established, in 1836, the year that the present United States Postal Organization became effective.

At that time a weekly stage coach began to run from Chicago to Milwaukee, over the "Old Indian Trail." This office also served Southport, now Kenosha, until 1840.

"Uncle Billy" Smith carried mail by horseback from Southport to Milwaukee, over the Green Bay Trail, in the early days. He resided on "this trail" adjoining the Township House.

Lute Carpenter, first Postmaster, carried mail from Kenosha, keeping the post office in his house (now the Edmund Fink home), at a salary of twelve dollars per year.

After a time, a group of farmers moved an old building that had been started as a grist mill and turned into a cheese factory, by a spring of clear, cold water, on the Somers Road, and Lute Carpenter moved the post office into this factory. Soon afterward, Abram Bishop began carrying the mail, the volume of which had increased sufficiently to warrant increasing the salary to twenty dollars per year.

When winter came, it was too cold in the cheese factory, so the post office was moved into the nearby blacksmith shop owned by John Smith. The next fall Abram Bishop moved it into his woodshed, a short distance west. The post office was two feet wide, and three feet long. A few months later Abram Bishop added a room on to his house for a store, and put the post office into it. This room soon became too small





*George Willis Tavern—Green Bay Trail—where the first Post Office was
in Our Town. Now the home of Elmer Maxwell.*



for his grocery business, so he erected a store building nearby, and moved the post office into it, where it remained for two years.

When, in 1870, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad was built through Our Town, the village of Somers was established. Mr. Bishop then moved to the village, taking with him his store, and the post office. Later, a larger store building was erected, and the post office was again moved.

Abram Bishop served as postmaster for eighteen years. Postmasters who followed, were: Lafayette Cook, Ward E. Bain, George Biehn, N. E. Thompson, Mrs. Florence Fink, Albert E. Bullamore, Mrs. Eunice B. Bullamore, and the present, C. C. Ruthe. Post office now is in the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul station house.

Rural delivery of mail over Route 1 was established in Somers in 1904. George Hamilton, a Spanish-American war veteran, was given the job of carrying the mail, and traveled the route for 30 years, until February, 1934, when it was discontinued.

Another post office of Somers, located in the Kelloggs Corners neighborhood, was kept for many years in Amon T. Gould's blacksmith shop. The mail was placed in a box in the northwest corner of his shop, as it was brought from Winsor Station, now Sylvania. Each farmer sorted his own mail.

A post office was kept at Berryville for many years by Mrs. Minnie Payne, Mr. and Mrs. William Scheckler, and for some time, was located in the depot. When Nicholas Erickson, a Spanish-American veteran, was appointed mail carrier on the newly established rural route No. 37 out from Kenosha, the Berryville post office was discontinued. Later No. 37 R. F. D. became R. F. D. 4.

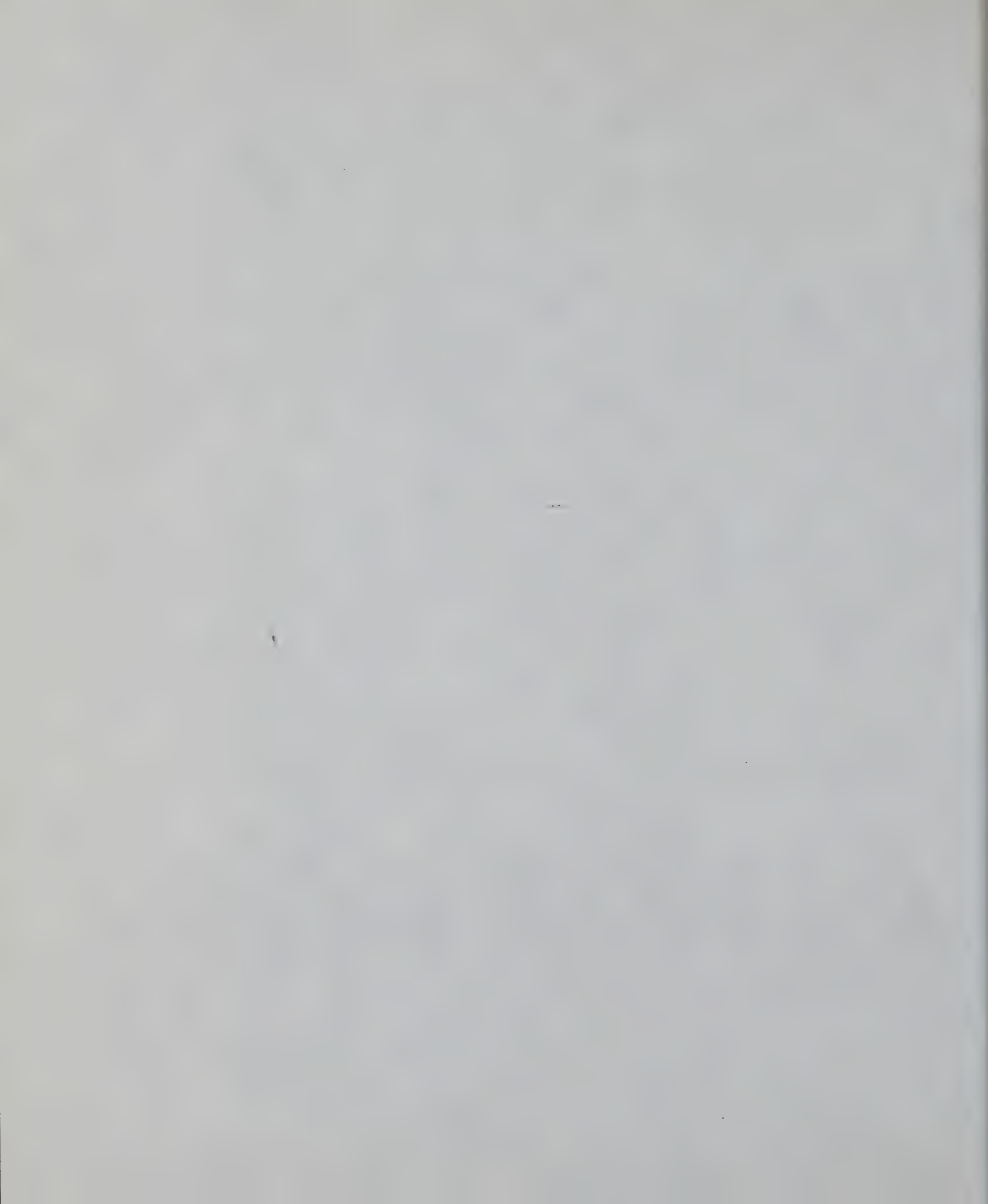
Pike Grove American Bible Society

Another interest in Our Town is The Pike Grove American Bible Society, which was organized in those pioneer days, and is still carrying on "its good work."

This society was organized on January 4, 1842, with the following officers elected: President, Moses Ordway; Vice President, J. B. Hurlbut; Secretary, Canfield Marsh; Treasurer, L. R. Hurlbut.

The Executive Committee: Charles Leet, Alexander Spence, Oliver Lynch.

The Visitors appointed for the collection of money: Seth Kellogg, Alson Felch, John Craig.





*Longwell Home—Green Bay Trail, where first school was taught by
Miss Brozee in 1836. Still standing.*



The Repositor, whose duties it was to care for and distribute the Bibles and Testaments, was Moses Ordway. For many years the repository was at the home of Rev. James Ozanne, and the sign, "The Pike Grove American Bible Society" was hung on the front of the home.

At a meeting on November 2, 1851, an agent was appointed in each school district in the Town, to do the duty of the Visitors. At least one meeting has been held each year since its organization in 1842.

Schools

The establishing of Our Public Schools in the Township of Somers (formerly called Pike) began more than a century ago, as the first school was kept in the winter of 1836, in the Longwell house (still standing), on the old Indian Trail, later the Green Bay Road, and was taught by Miss Brizee. From this humble beginning, developed our present beautiful modernized state graded, and rural schools.

School Districts in the Town of Pike, County of Racine, and Territory of Wisconsin

The Commissioners of Common Schools of said Town, met and established the following divisions of said Town, into School Districts, as follows:

Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14.

Town of Pike, July 1, 1843

Signed by Commissioners of Common Schools

P. D. Hugunin J. P. Hurlbut I. Newman

Oscar Hurlbut, Town Clerk

As time went on and more settlers came, alterations and reformati-
ons in the districts took place, and today, Our Township has five
State Graded Schools and three modernized one-room schools, employ-
ing 16 teachers for approximately 412 students. The majority of
students of our schools follow on into higher fields of learning.

School District No. 1, being organized in the early forties, has been
most prominent as an educational center in Our Town. The first build-
ing was erected on the Green Bay Trail, where it stood until 1886, when
a new site was purchased one-half a mile west on the Somers highway.
Of this first school but little history is available, still we know that out
from its doors came many of Our Town's professional men and women.
Among them were: Rev. James Buswell, Congregational minister; Rev.
Moses Buswell, Jr., Baptist minister; Ezra Buswell, Leader and Tea-



*Somers Town House.
Built on the Green Bay Trail in 1857-1859. Still in use.*

cher in the Christian Science faith; Miss Belle Spence, Teacher for many years, later becoming City Missionary of Chicago. Among others who became prominent teachers were Mrs. Mary Spence Booth, William and George Spence. Isaac T. Bishop, an early student, served as state senator for some years.

This building was in use until 1925 (when it was sold to John Yunk and is a dwelling for his son's family), when a two-room State Graded School was erected on this site, which became known as the Washington State Graded School. Two teachers are employed.

Note: Moses Buswell was Clerk of District No. 1 for many years.

The Hillcrest School—District No. 2

The story of School District Number 2, now Hillcrest State Graded, is full of interest from its organization in the early Forties.

In 1841 the first building was located about a mile east of the present site on the (then) Ira Newman farm, and was a rude log structure. The foundation stones are still there.

The quarter acre of land in Sec. 26, T. 2 N., R. 22 E. on which this log schoolhouse was built, was to be used for school purposes without charge, or rent, so long as it should be occupied for the purpose of a District School.

This first school was known as the Ridge School, and the first Board of Trustees was: Cephus Weed, Treasurer; Jonathan H. Talcott, and Jonathan Pierce.

In 1852 a roll was called for the building of a new schoolhouse, and \$360 was voted for this purpose. The site chosen was the present one, now Hillcrest. Among items of special interest in the Treasurer's book, are: "April 2, 1842—cash paid for recording school lot deed, 51 cents; Paid for cleaning schoolhouse—25 cents."

During the Civil War, the undersigned agreed to pay the Treasurer of School District No. 2, the sum set opposite their respective names, for the purpose of keeping a school, to be taught by Robert Graham, during the summer of 1862. Leonard Lee \$5, Thomas Hunt \$3, S. B. Clapp \$3, Ira Newman \$1, A. Northway \$1, J. C. Stover \$1, James Talcott \$1, E. Pennoyer \$2, Burton Curtiss \$1, Thomas Jordan \$2, Eli G. Runals \$3, and James A. Newman \$2.

Robert Graham also served as Township Superintendent of Schools and later became State Superintendent of Schools.

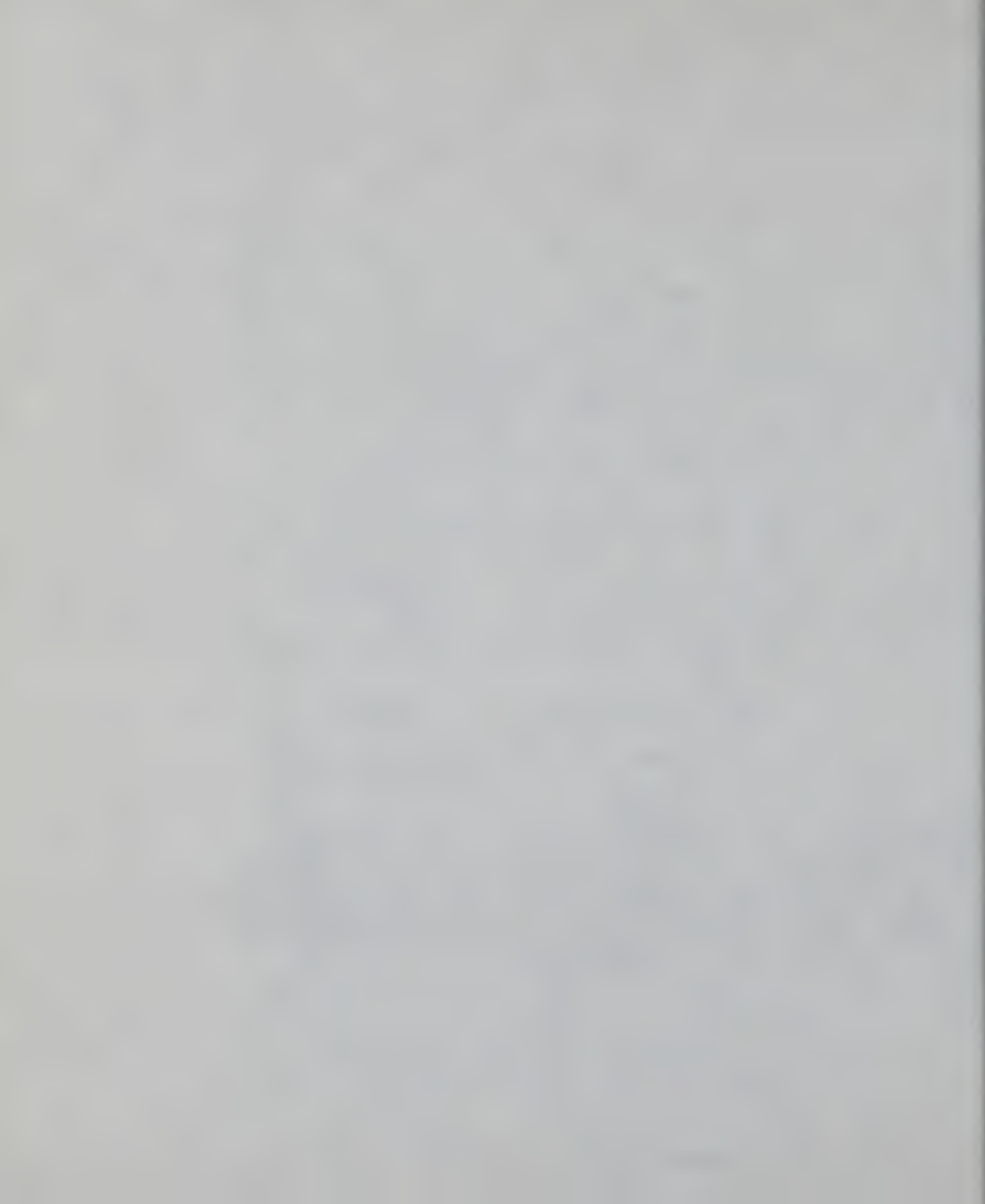
... Graduating Exercises ...

OF SOMERS, DIST. NO. 5.

Tuesday, June 29, 1897, 8 P. M.

... PROGRAM ...

Chorus—"1" In the School Room.....	
" "2" Vacation.....	
Invocation.....	Rev. A. E. Sanford
Music.....	Orchestra
Oration and Salutatory Address—"Ambition".....	Mabel Cook
Recitation—"The Old Man and Jim".....	Clarence Lytle
Music—Clarinet Solo.....	Ray Mitchell
Recitation—"Curfew".....	Katie Peterson
Chorus—Before Recess.....	
Essay—Abraham Lincoln.....	Jacob Schaeffer
Solo—"Sing, Little Bird".....	Lizzie Gitzlaff
Recitation—"Legend of Bregenz".....	Lizzie Drissel
Music.....	Orchestra
Class Prophecy.....	Sadie Haigh
Music—Clarinet Solo.....	Ray Mitchell
Recitation—"The Drowning Singer".....	Mabel Yule
Chorus—"The Meadows".....	
Recitation—"John Burns at Gettysburg".....	Frank Rhodes
Music.....	Orchestra
Recitation—"Thanatopsis".....	Blanche Yule
Chorus—Vacation Days.....	
Music—Clarinet Solo.....	Ray Mitchell
Chorus—"Now We Lay Our Books Aside".....	
Valedictory Addresses—"Our Yesterdays".....	Lottie E. Haigh
Address to Class.....	Rev. Brown
Conferring of Diplomas.....	Mr. J. B. Maloney, Supt.
Chorus—Class of '97.....	
Benediction.....	Rev. A. E. Sanford



Among the early students of District No. 2 was William Fisher, who, for many years, was one of Kenosha's most prominent merchants; also Lucius Lee, who, after finishing for the ministry, was sent to Turkey, where he did mission work for 30 years; the Jordan family, Thomas, Henry, George, John, Ann, and Maria; the Barnes family, V. V. and Phillip, prominent attorneys, William and Carrie, teachers; Miss Lily Runals, an accomplished musician and opera singer, who later joined the Metropolitan in New York; the Rogers family, William, Thomas, James, and Elizabeth.

Some few years ago the one-room building made way for a modernized two-room red brick, with a recent primary building added, where more than 120 pupils are schooled, under the tutorship of three teachers, now the Hillcrest State Graded.

No. 5—Now Burr Oak

The organization of this school reads: "The undersigned Commissioners of Common Schools of the Town of Pike, having met at the house of H. and I. L. Johnson in said Town for the purpose of deliberating upon an application for the formation of a school district by Jehiel Hughes and others, dated November 14, 1845, and having taken the subject into consideration, do hereby determine to organize a District to be composed of the following territory, viz: Sections No. 7, 8, 17 and 18, and the North half of Sections No. 19 and 20, and the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section No. 21 and the South half of Sections No. 5 and 6 and the West $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sections No. 9 and 16 and the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section No. 4 to be known and distinguished as School District No. 5—the North half of Sections No. 19 and 20 and the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section No. 21 having been attached from School District No. 4 and included in the above described district.

Dated—Pike—December 13, 1845.

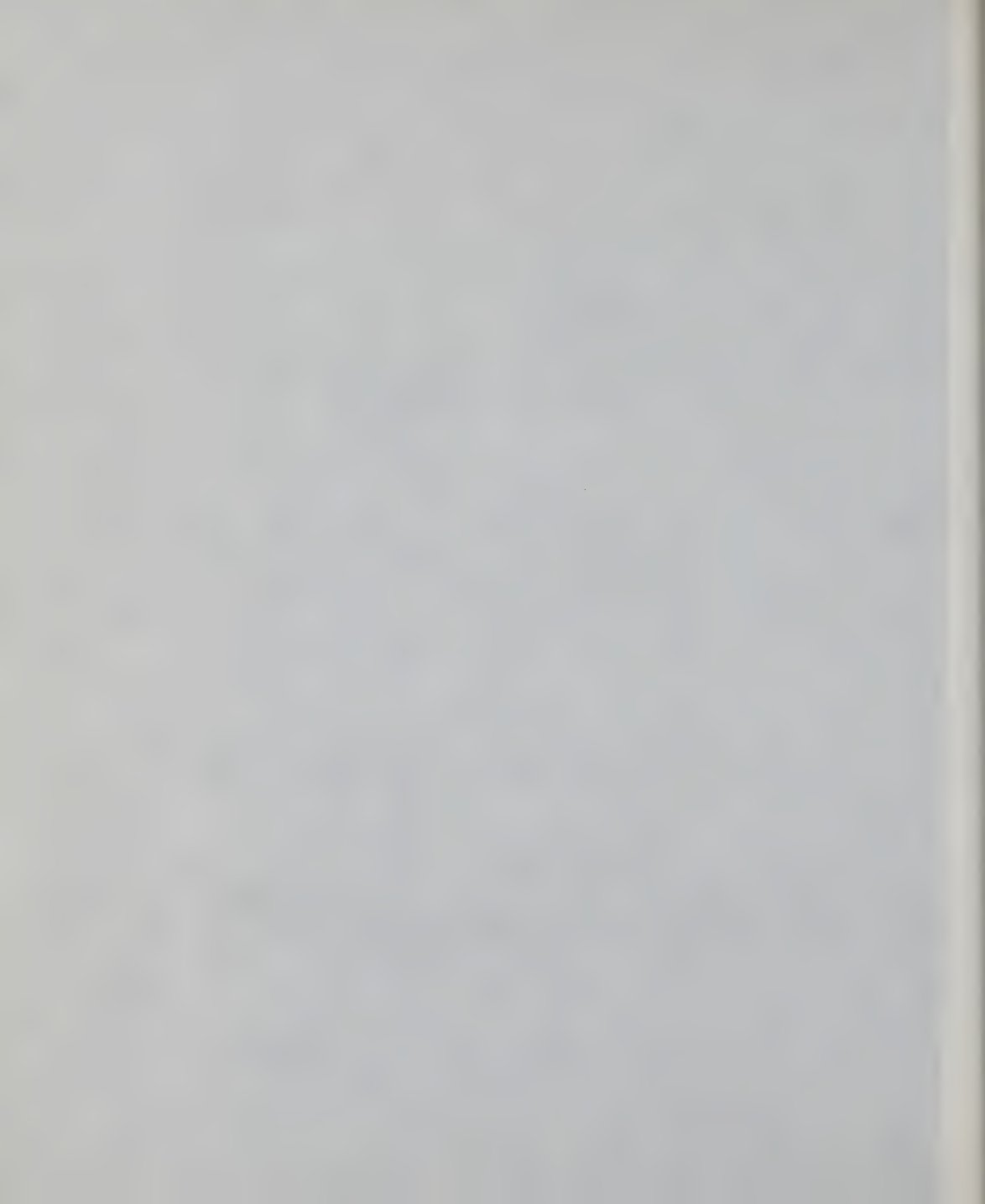
Signed,

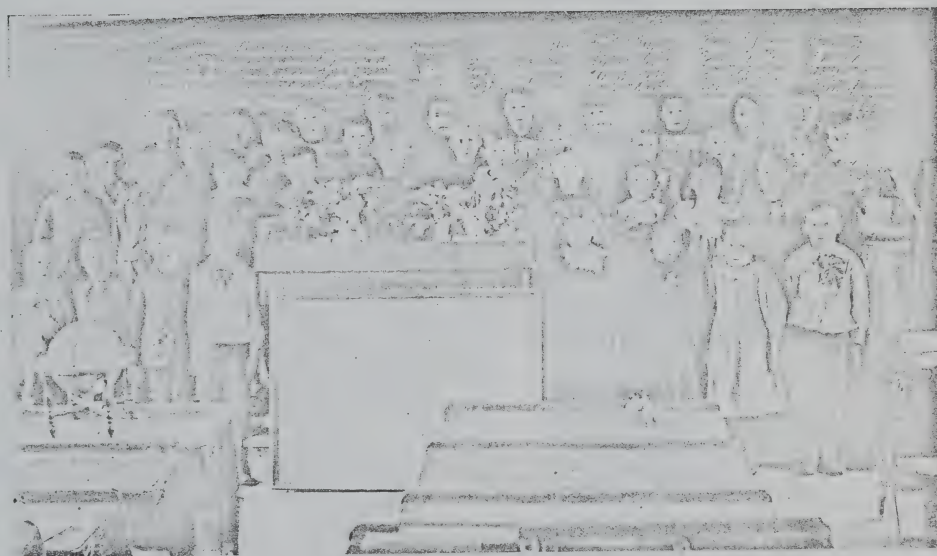
Leonard Lee

A. T. Maliby

School Commissioners"

The first apportionment of school money recorded is April 14, 1848, when the Commissioners of Common Schools of the Town of Pike met and apportioned the school money to the several districts in pursuance of a vote passed at the annual Town Meeting, the amount being \$116.12, of which District No. 5 received \$21.24.





School District No. 5—Now Burr Oak—May 25, 1897.

Thirty children enrolled.

In the early school history, the custom was to have Town Superintendents of School instead of a County Superintendent. Among the early Town Superintendents were George DeLong, Alson Felch, T. L. Cooley.

From 1845 to 1868 no record is available, as all were destroyed. There was a small light-colored leather trunk, 8x16x15 inches that held the school records for years, and it was among the early relics and records lost.

But during these years a schoolhouse had been built in the north-western corner of the grove now belonging to the Thomas R. Birchells. This building faced the east, and had a fence at the south and east sides, the north and west sides being open to the highway. The floor, with its rude desks, was built amphitheatrical. A long seat extending the entire length at the rear of the room, was for the advanced pupils. The stove was long and box-like, into which great cord-wood sticks were burned. The toilets were built in the grove beyond, and when the pupils visited them, they were obliged to climb over the fence.

Water for drinking had to be brought in a wooden pail from the Bowker well. To "Go after water" was quite a privilege, as it took two pupils, and though the pail was large, and the way was hot and dusty, or cold and stormy, no one complained. The water pail was passed around, and everyone drank from the little tin cup.

The usual plan followed the first decade of the school's history, was to have a man teacher for the winter term, and a woman for the summer.

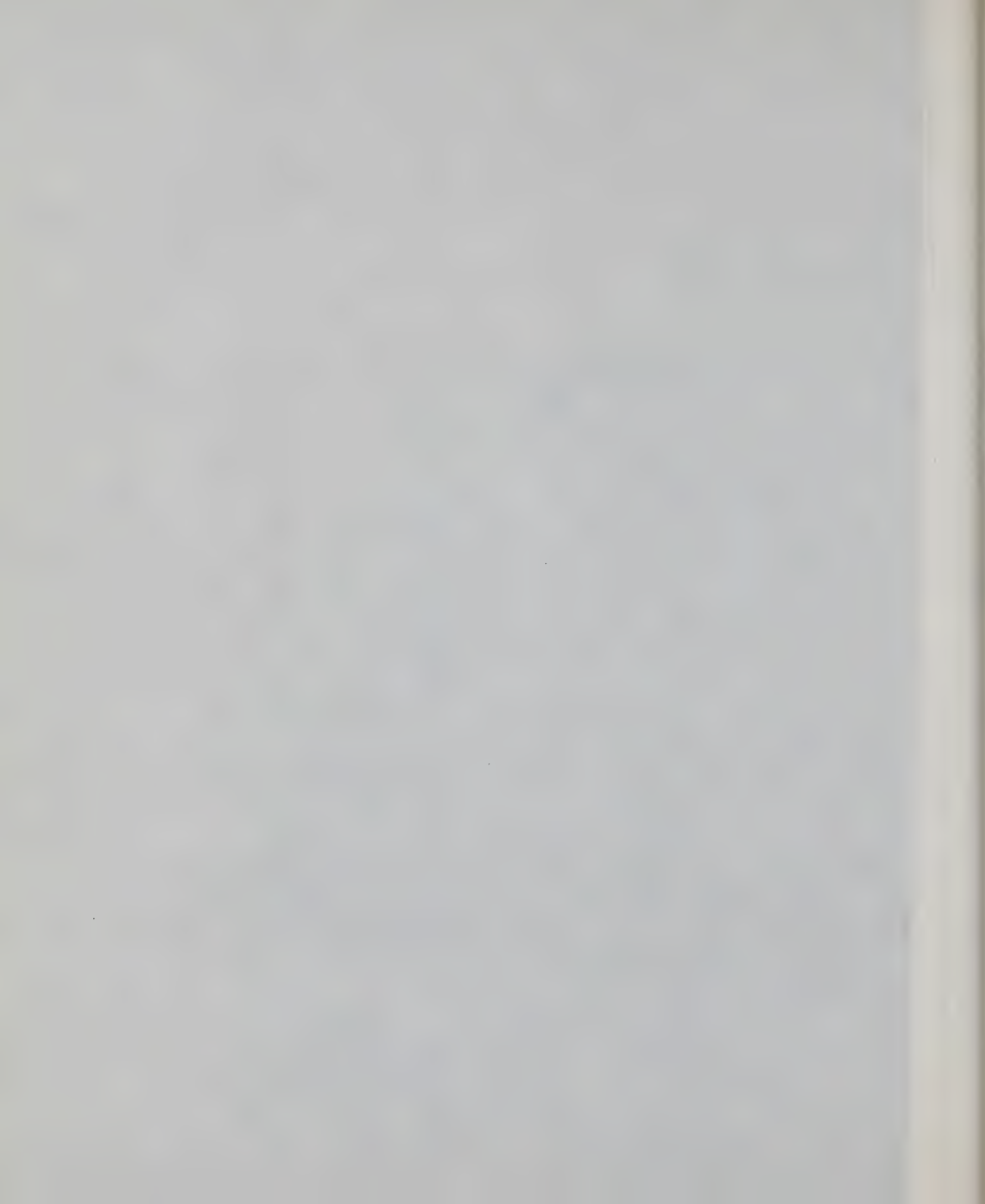
Miss Ann Jordan, a much beloved teacher and talented singer, organized a singing school in this first building, that was attended by the folk of the community, and many were the good times enjoyed.

She and George Spence, Minnie Gager and Phoebe Bishop, also William G. Spence, who taught the last year of school in this building, are all of the early teachers of whom we have any record.

This building was sold more than 75 years ago to Albert Hughes, and moved on to his farm, where it has been used for a granery and tool shed. (Still in use.)

This schoolhouse, like those early homes, was most substantially built. The lath used were made of wide boards, split into the required width.

September 28, 1868 a meeting was called, and M. B. Bowker was elected as Clerk, at a salary of five dollars per year. It was also moved



to raise money for a site and to build a new schoolhouse and have seven months' school, to be taught by a female teacher, for \$190; also voted to have ten cords of seasoned wood furnished by the lowest bidder.

September 27, 1869 a vote prevailed to raise \$800 for the purpose of buying or leasing a school site, and erecting a building upon same. The site chosen was a short distance west of the original, and the one on which Burr Oak School stands today.

George and John Hughes did the carpenter work.

"Burr Oak School"—so very appropriately named—when I think of its playgrounds, with those stately oaks, I think of Lowell, who said:

"What gnarled stretch, what depth of shade is His!
There needs no crown to mark the forest's king."

An interesting feature of this site is— "The rain-drops on the west side of the schoolhouse go to the Mississippi River, while the drops on the east side go to the St. Lawrence River."

The first teacher in the new building was William Spence, who also taught the last term in the old building.

August 23, 1892, at a special meeting of the district, it was decided to build an addition of six feet on to the south end of the building. James E. Spencer did the work. Among those who have served on the School Board for more than ten years are: Clerk—Myron B. Bowker, 12 years; James E. Spencer, 16 years; John Haigh, 17 years. Treasurer—William J. Rhodes, 21 years, and his son, Jay W. Rhodes, 35 consecutive years. Director—Enoch Haigh, 15 years.

Among the early teachers in District No. 5 were: Ann Jordan, Phoebe Bishop, George Spence, Minnie Gager, William Spence, Phillip Barnes (later an attorney-at-law), David Flett (attorney-at-law and later made Judge of the first municipal court of Racine), Mary Burgess, Delia Cutting, who continued teaching many years, Clarence Smith, who later went to California and became very prosperous, and Cora Marcher, who became Mrs. Bickle. She is the mother of Frederick March, movie artist.

Among the early pupils were: the Bingham Porters' three daughters, who followed the teaching profession many years, Will Spencer, teacher in the west, later established as Superintendent of the Astor Building, New York City, James E. Spencer, prominent in the civic activities in Somers, Clark Spencer, teacher for many years, Jesse Hughes,



who heard his country's call—later engineer for more than 20 years, with the C. B. & I. R. R. Company. George, John and Albert Hughes, who operated the Hay Press and Feed Mill in Somers, many years, Florence Spencer, school teacher and teacher of music many years, and popular soprano singer, Mary and Fanny Bowker, both teachers, Henry Flett and John Beffel, prominent physicians, Katherine L. Schaeffer, teacher, entered mission field in China, where she devoted more than thirty-five years in the work, died and was buried in Hainan, China, Willis Hughes, ticket agent at Northwestern Depot, Chicago, Jacob Schaeffer, Vice President of the Glen Dive State Bank, Montana, Arthur Hughes, civil engineer in southern Africa, Laura and Madeline Hughes, who operated a stenographers' office in San Francisco, California, with more than 100 girls in their employ, and many other great men and women who have come out from the Burr Oak School well equipped to meet the problems of life, because of that early training by those early teachers, whom we remember. Anton Nelson also was a student at Number 5 and went to Chicago, where for many years he was employed at the post office.

The first graduating exercises held in the rural schools of the Town of Somers, were held in District No. 5, now Burr Oak. Minnie A. Grimshaw, teacher.

1737747

No. 7—Now Pike River School

Between the years of 1836 and November 30, 1846 there is no record of School No. 7. It was on November 30, 1846 that the Commissioners of Common Schools in the Town of Pike, later Somers, met at the home of James Lynch, at the request of Jonas W. Rhodes, Alvin Strong, and others, for the formation of a new school district. This district thus formed, was four miles long, one and one-half miles wide. It has been changed many times, and in 1860 became a joint district with Mt. Pleasant, Racine County. In April, 1847 a meeting was called and officers appointed: Clerk, S. E. Hurlbut; Trustees, H. Longwell, Jonas W. Rhodes, A. Strong; Collector, J. Longwell; Treasurer, J. P. Hurlbut.

On October 25, a tax of \$150 was levied for the purpose of erecting a school house, and the Trustees were authorized to choose a site. November 15, same year, an adjourned meeting was held to raise \$200, and the site was to be on the "west side of the bluff." In September, 1848 the size and construction of the building was considered and de-



cided to have it 20x25 feet, and that it be underpinned in a workman-
ship manner according to the direction of the Trustees.

That winter it was decided to have school if a suitable place could
be found, and \$40 was raised for the purpose of painting and buying
a stove, a broom, and a pail.

At the first annual meeting held in the new school building in 1849,
a vote was made to raise \$30, to pay a teacher the coming winter for
at least three months. However, five months of school were held, with
an enrollment of sixteen scholars, and wages were paid E. Hannon,
five dollars per month. The school grounds were six rods square, and
are just as scenic today, as then.

The annual meeting October 8, 1850 voted to begin school in two
weeks, and continue four months, and also contracted for six cords of
seasoned body oak wood at \$1.12½ per cord.

The annual meeting October 6, 1857 voted six months school, the
clerk being instructed to procure a female teacher. Miss Emily English
was paid \$11 per month, with eight scholars attending.

In 1852 the Treasurer reported the annual budget of \$80.07 with
indebtedness of \$4.07. During that year there were two teachers; Miss
Lucy French taught four months, at two dollars per week, and Caroline
De Long for three months, at \$1.62½ per week—19 scholars.

In 1858 additional land was bought to make the grounds contain
one acre, and the three-year term of board members was inaugurated.

The library was kept in the various homes until 1866, when it was
placed in the school house.

In the Clerk's annual report for 1854 the school had one Black.
Mr. Cutting had visited the south, and brought back a colored boy,
whose first name was Miles, the only negro in the history of the school.

District No. 8

Now Bullamore Forks State Graded School

The early history of this school is not available, but in a review
we find that the first building was constructed by James Petrie about
1850 and the substantial building served the district some eighty years
when it was sold and moved a short distance away and remodeled into
a dwelling house.

In 1929 a new two-room modern red brick building was erected on
the original site and accommodates some 90 pupils.

John Umland served the district as its clerk for twenty years.



Among the earlier students were the seven Flett brothers. James taught school many years. David studied law and later was appointed Judge of the first Municipal Court, Racine. George was, for many years, a minister in the Presbyterian Church. Charles followed teaching for some years, later studying medicine, locating in Milbank, South Dakota. Among other students were the Winslow's, the Hermann's, the Bullamore's, the Eick's, the Murray's, and the Ozanne's.

District No. 9

Now Wood Road State Graded School

The earliest record available in the history of School District No. 9 is that of July, 1856, when "The Town Superen of Scools in The Town of Somers having formed on the 12th day of July 1856 in said Town called Scool District No. 9.

"October 17, 1856 legal notice having been given the inhabitants of scool District No. 9, met at the house of Philander T. Briggs and elected Scool officers for the ensuing year—John Gibson—Cleark. William R. Stetson—Director. Philander T. Briggs—Treasurer.

"Voted to rase Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) in addition to the amount to be drawn from the Three Districts from which we ware sett of for the purpose of building a Scool House and maintaining a scool for the ensuing year.

"Dec. '56. John Gibson removed and Wm. Swarts appointed Cleark in his place.

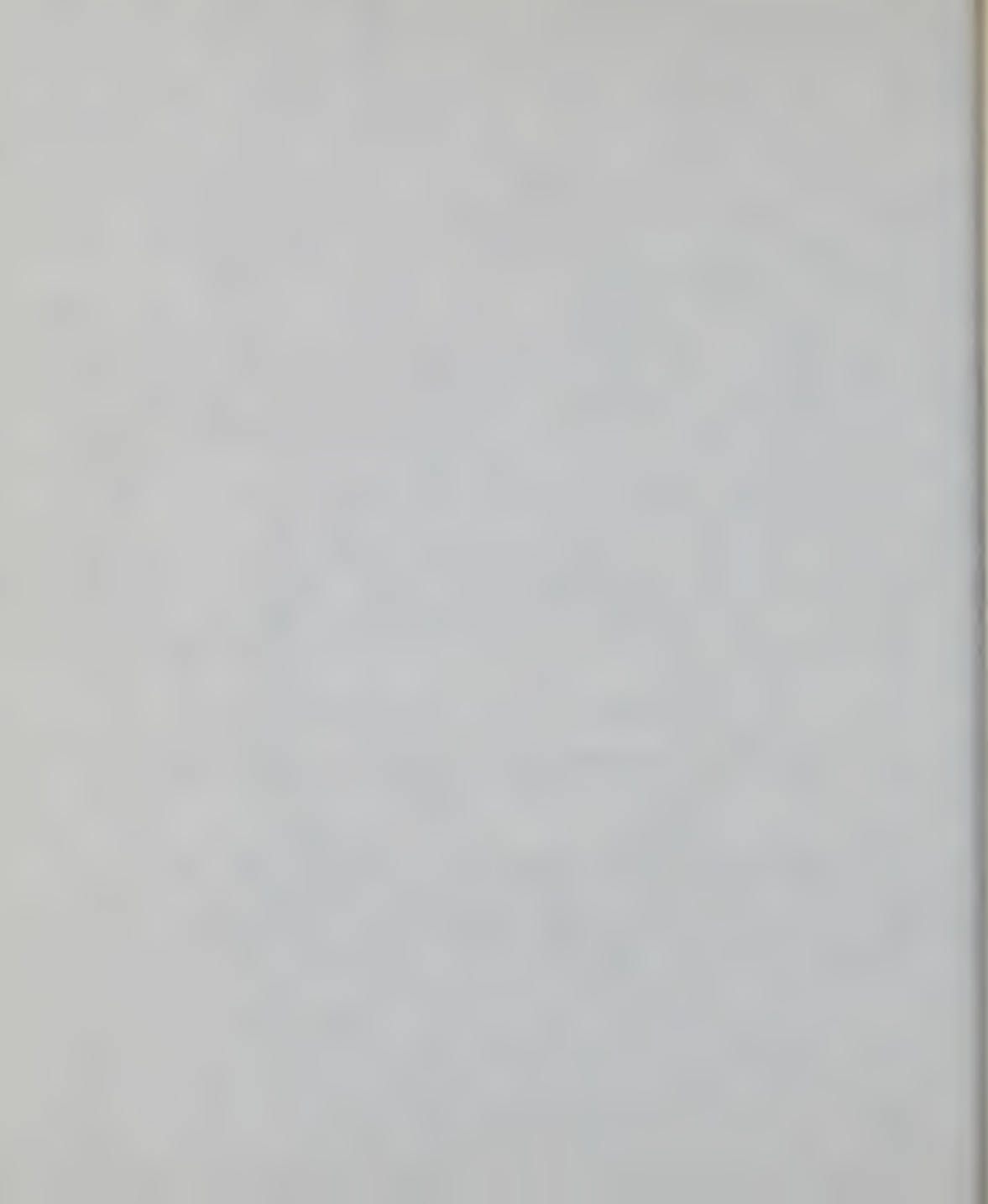
"March, 1857. Contract let to Wm. Shott to build Scool House by the Cleark and Director for Three Hundred Dollars.

"June 14th, Board met and accepted Scool House.

"Sept. 28th, 1857, Scool District No. 9 Anual Meeting called by Director. The Treasur made his report:

Moneys rec'd during the year from Town Treas.....	\$200.00
Town Superintendent	69.76
	<hr/>
	\$269.76

Cash paid out—on order to Wm. Shott.....	\$200.00
For chair	1.25
For Pail, Broom and cup75
For Teachers wages 16 weeks	48.00



To my Suesfeer	16.01
Cleaning lot	3.75
	<hr/>
	\$269.76

"Officers elected for ensuing year. Wm. Swarts—Direct. C. G. Stetson—Treas. Philander T. Briggs—Clearke. Voted to get 6 cords of good oak wood, sawed, split, and piled up—bid of Wm. Swarts at Three Dollars per cord.

"Voted to raise One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for Teachers wages and contingent expenses.

"Monday, Sept. 27, 1858. Cash paid out as follows:

To Wm. Slocum for deed	\$ 1.50
To Bain and Brothers for stove & bell	16.05
To Wm. Swarts for wood	18.00
To Shott balance on building School House	100.00
For Black Board	4.00
For Lumber & Glass, etc.	2.95
Charges on Dictionary50
Miss F. Farnum for teaching	88.00
For Library Books	8.31
For 2 blank books & register	1.25
For Mooveing & Loweing Desks	1.00
To Miss T. M. Briggs for teaching	52.00
For School House Lot	20.00

"District voted to appropriate \$15.00 for Back House, \$5 for Library. To get 4 cords of dry oak wod, sawed, split and piled up for \$3.00 per cord.

"September 24th, 1866. Voted to raise \$50 tax for school. Voted to get 3 cords of wood. Wm. Schwarts to furnish it at \$7.00 a cord. \$10 Tax for Library. Voted to have 4 months school. May and June the first term—September and October, 2nd term."

The first building was sold in 1877 and a new building followed. This was sold in 1927. In 1926 a new red brick modern building was built on the first original site.

Among those early teachers were Julia Hawley, Bertie Fitch, Helena Ozanne, Carrie Burgess, Jessie Petrie, Delia Cutting, Ambrosia Cronk, Lottie Reynolds, Herbert Cooley, Jennie Hastings, Minnie Crow.

Addie Strong, Charles Flett, who later studied medicine and located in South Dakota.

Board members—William Stetson, who came from New York in 1835, served as school clerk for twenty-five consecutive years. William and Jacob Swartz also served many years on the school board.

Among the early students were Lloyd Briggs, who for years was Professor at the Oshkosh State Normal; James Briggs, also a teacher and Supt. of Schools in Kenosha county.

District No. 11

The Berryville State Graded School

The first school in the northeastern section of our township was Number 11, later called Berryville School. The first building was a log house built on the east side of the highway. Later a frame building was built on the same site. The log building is now in use as a granary on the John Hansche farm, and the frame building built about 1872 is used as an onion storage house.

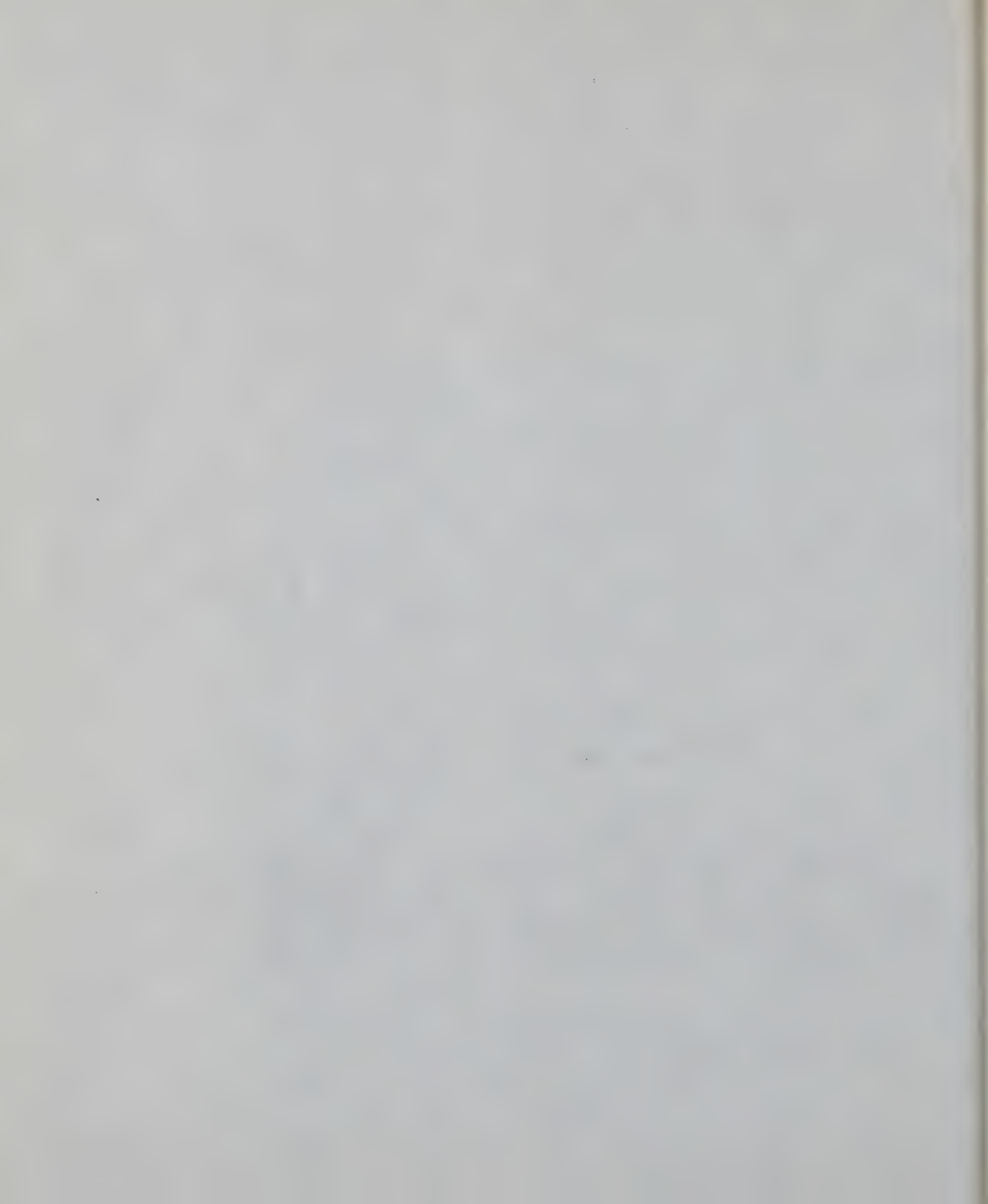
As the population along the lake shore increased it was necessary to build again, and today Number 11 is one of the finest red brick school buildings in Our Town. This eight-room building was erected on the west side of the highway, with a large playground and community hall, now employing five teachers. Among the early teachers were: William Longmore, Helena Ozanne, Mary Cunningham, Alice Moss, Alice McCormick, G. M. Hoffman, Alice Stannard, Mary Moran, G. M. Kerkhoff, Edna Perry.

Frank Swingle taught in Number 2 building for five years, and it was while he was instructor there, that a meeting was held in his school building, that was the originating of the "Cabbage Disease Control, October of 1897." This devastating disease "Cabbage Yellows" was ruining the cabbage storage business in the lake shore counties.

Following this first meeting, the disease resistant cabbage was developed by Dr. H. L. Russell and Dr. L. R. Jones of Wisconsin College of Agriculture, with the faithful cooperation of the lake shore truck growers.

As a result of this first meeting in Our Town, the cabbage growing business in Wisconsin and the United States was saved.

Our state later loaned the services of Dr. Jones to eastern states and others, and they followed Wisconsin's lead in growing and selecting disease resistant cabbage.



No. 14—Kelloggs Corners School

*A joint District of Pike (later Somers), Mt. Pleasant,
Yorkville and Paris Townships*

"A meeting was held at the house of Chauncey Kellogg in Mt. Pleasant on Saturday, the 18th day of May, 1844 to have and organize a school district composing the following sections in Mt. Pleasant, viz: Sec. 31 and S. W. $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 32, T. 3 R. 22; and in the Town of Pike, Sec. 6 and W. $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 5, of T. 2, R. 22; and in Paris, Sec. 1 and the E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 2 in T. 3, R. 21, and Sec. 36 and the E. $\frac{1}{2}$ of Sec. 35, T. 3, R. 21, to be called The Sylvania-School District, and known as such.

"Mt. Pleasant, Pike and Paris, May 18, 1844.

Gurdon Secor, E. W. Washburn, George W. Parker, School Commission of Mt. Pleasant.

"C. Marsh, S. C. Bacon, School Commission of Pike.

"O. P. Hale, M. C. Buswell, School Commission of Paris.

"The above is a true copy of the original on file.

Oscar Hurlbut, Town Clerk"

The first school building constructed of logs and timbers hewn from the woods nearby, was built about a quarter of a mile south of The Corners. After a time this building was sold and moved to the Daniel Coughlin farm. A new site near the Methodist Church was purchased, and a new building was erected, which still stands. This school was long known as the Sylvania School, and for many years had a large attendance of pupils. Among the early teachers were Miss Adeline Wilson, M. P. Barry, who received \$28 per month for three months, Miss Perkins, Miss Esther R. Shepard, E. W. Malone, Mary E. Spence, Helen Allan, Marinda Gager, Lorin Gould, Lavinia Goldsworthy, Will H. Spencer, David Powderly, Mary Burgess, Robert Pollock, Alice Murray Heidersdorf, and Nancy Murtagroyd.

Judge Roy Burgess, now of Racine, was a student at the Sylvania school. Attorney Peter Meyers was an early student also.

Among the early settlers of this part of Our Town, then called Pike, following the coming of the Kellogg families, were the Peter Meyers family, who came in 1855, Christian and William Heidersdorf, and Eliza Heidersdorf, who came from Germany in 1848. Christian Heidersdorf married Margaret Myers in 1857.

Their descendants are carrying on the homestead taken in the early days. There were five girls and five boys in the Heidersdorf family. Other families, the Alonza Burgess, James Buckleys, the

Fosters, the Holmes, the George and Horace Lelong families, the Coughlins, John and Jacob Haney, A. T. Goulds, the Martins, and the Jason Davis's.

The water system at the Sylvania School was "The Old Oaken Bucket, the Moss Covered Bucket that hung in the well" at the rear of the A. T. Gould home. How we children loved to "go for water" and stop at the blacksmith shop to and from, and watch the sturdy smith as he pumped the rude bellows, or put a shoe on the farmer's horse. A. T. Gould loved the school children and they loved him. A. T. Gould's blacksmith shop stood at The Corners for 70 years.

It is said, from these little rural school houses in Our Town, that more boys and girls laid the foundation for higher things in life, than in any other locality of like area. Many professionals were born and reared, descendants of those early pioneers, teachers, preachers, doctors, lawyers, missionaries, musicians, in fact, professionals in every walk of life.

Among the missionaries sent to foreign fields of work were Lucian Lee, who spent years in Turkey; Katherine Schaeffer devoted more than thirty years of useful labor in China; Herbert G. Ozanne did work in India for several years.

Music

Somers, from its start and early development, has taken and held a prominent place in the music field.

Perhaps many of us residing in Our Town today have almost forgotten those native sons and daughters whose musical talents added much to the artistic world.

Somers' own prima donna, Miss Charille Runals, known as Lily Runals, was born March 14, 1855. Her early life was lived on the Runals Homstead, known as the Willowbrook farm in Our Town, and attended school at District No. 2, now Hillcrest School.

In early life she developed a sweet soprano voice and following her graduation from the Kenosha High School, she studied voice in Ohio, later going to New York, where she rapidly rose in public favor as a singer and poetic reader, and soon joined the Metropolitan Opera. She charmed vast audiences with her rendition of her own arrangement of "The Sky Pilot," "Black Rock" and other beautiful stories. As she sang the beautiful sacred songs and those immortal hymns, she made a lasting impression on her hearers. Many of the older people



Miss Lily Runals—Somers Prima Donna.

of Our Town may recall when this prima donna came home on a visit and gave a concert at the Methodist Church. Her rendition of "The Holy City" on this occasion has never been forgotten by those who listened. She sleeps in a cemetery in Washington, D. C.

Florence Spencer Owen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Spencer, who came from the East in the early days, was a school teacher, a teacher of music and was talented with a sweet soprano voice that thrilled her hearers for years.

The Jordan family was a family of music. Miss Ann Jordan, a singing school leader, started many young people on a musical career.

John G. Mitchell, a son of a sturdy Scotch family, who came early, was a baritone of renown. One of his favorite solos was "Rocked In The Cradle of The Deep." For years he was leader in the male and mixed quartettes Somers was so proud of. He was a singing school master and started many of our young people in the music world.

And so on down the decades, our people have added much to the field of music. The descendants of those pioneers are carrying on in the field of music—Mrs. Mabel Yule Longmore, Jay W. Rhodes, Mrs. Mabelle Cook Rhodes, Mrs. Eunice Bradley Bullamore, Mrs. Elizabeth Flett Felton.

M. R. K. Electric Railway

It was a great day, when in October of 1897 the Electric Railway was completed from Milwaukee to Kenosha, along the lake shore. This, passing the Berryville School, children could ride from Racine county line to Kenosha city limits, the district extending this entire length, as well as one and one-half miles west of the lake.

Somers Militant

In those strenuous days through the decades, when war came, our men and women, boys and girls responded to the call.

Peter Bushman, Henry Lytle, Jacob Swartz, Edwin McFarland, and Orville Rice were among those who marched with General Sherman on his memorable "March to the Sea."

Colonel Theodore Tabbert gave more than thirty-three years service in the United States Army.

Sports

Through the decades Our Town has held a prominent place in the sports world.



Mitchell Park—Somers Band Stand.

This Band Stand stood in this beautiful spot—Mitchell Park—for many years, and was later moved to Leet Brothers' Grove. Finally it was wrecked by a group of boys, unknown in our community. So, one by one, our early landmarks disappear.

A baseball team that was organized in 1877 played for several seasons, with no games played on Sunday.

The members of this team were George D. Strong, Dr. James Ozanne, Edward Yule, Charles W. Mitchell, William, Henry and Andrew Flett, E. G. Ozanne, and Norman E. Thompson.

Our Cemetery

Article I of The Oakwood Cemetery Association—"Order being Heaven's first law, it is necessary and becoming that we should prepare and beautify a final resting place for us, when we shall have done with other earthly needs."

And for this object a group formed themselves into an association which became known as The Oakwood Cemetery Association, in the early forties.

To the small acreage platted in the early days, two additions were added, and today Oakwood has three hundred lots.

The first burial was in 1842 for John Ozanne, son of Rev. James Ozanne. Many of those early pioneers are resting in The Oakwood Cemetery and others in The Sylvania Cemetery.

The Oakwood Cemetery became incorporated in 1909.

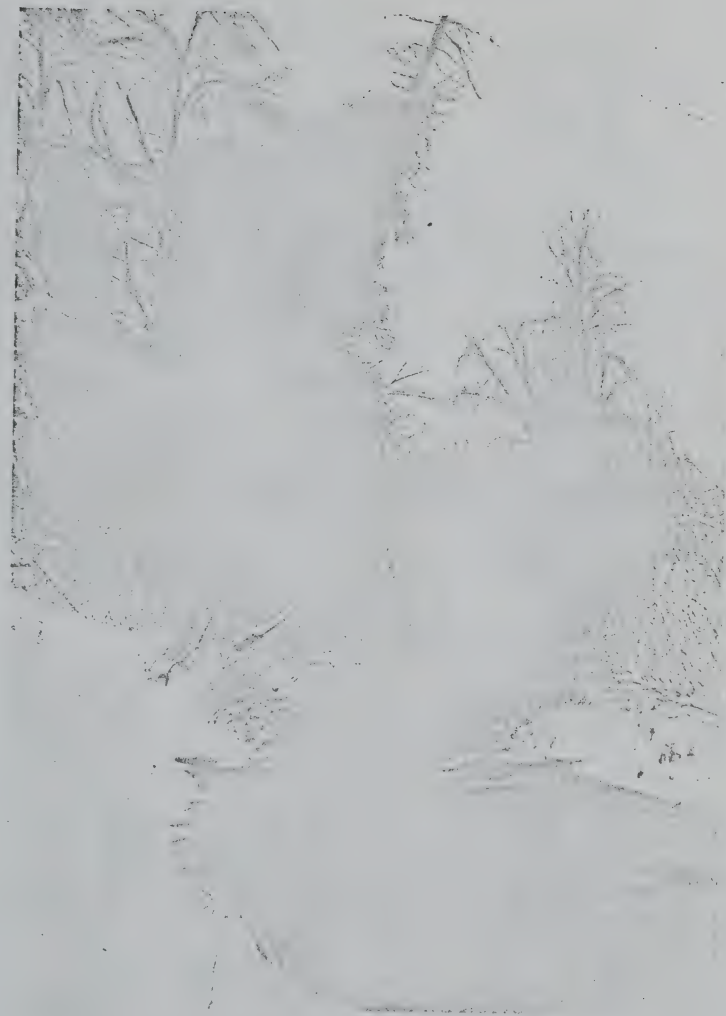
Parks—Nature's Beautiful Spots

Our first park was in the village of Somers, and for many years band concerts and social activities were enjoyed at "The Mitchell Park" where a fine band stand was built. The Third Brass Band, under the direction of John G. Mitchell, and these musicians, Fred W. Leet, Adam Lytle, Robert and Burdette Burgess, Elmer Cooper, Sherman Gibbon, Anton Nelson, William Munroe, Maurace Gould, Delbert Bishop, and Ray Mitchell, the drummer boy, offered many fine entertainments.

Ray Mitchell later became leader of an Illinois State Military Band. A story of the first and second bands organized in Somers is not available.

The Petrifying Springs Park

Long before the white man began to push his way westward from the Atlantic coast, the Indian made this his camp ground, and quenched his thirst at the free flowing springs on this, the largest timbered ground of nature's beautiful woods in this section of our state. This park, on the banks of the Pike River, on the Green Bay Trail, was



Petrifying Springs Park photo by Elmer Pedley, on Green Bay Trail.

opened April 1, 1928, and is a most ideal picnic grounds, comprising more than 350 acres, with natural springs, rustic bridges along the picturesque banks of Pike River. Improvements on the grounds are the children's play grounds, baseball grounds, horseshoe courts, golf course, club house. At one time a deer pasture was an attractive spot, where several beautiful deer were cared for and protected. E. G. Ozanne was the first custodian of the park. One handsome deer was Fannie Annie, which liked to look in your coat pocket for a slice of bread, or cookies. Many a loaf of bread from the Ozanne larder went to the deer.

A choice bit of nature's handiwork—contributed by Elmer Pedley of the third generation of the Jonathan Pedleys, who came early and established a home in Our Town.

This Is My Home

In presenting this bit of nature's handiwork, it is my intention not only to please the eye, but to awaken those memories of other years which give to us greater appreciation of the present and tend to stimulate our hearts to renewed determination, that our Thread of Life shall not break until we have rendered our service to those who shall follow.

Yes, this truly is My Home, for it is a scene in the Petrifying Springs Park, and the scene of my boyhood days. Near this spot I began life, and for the first twelve of those years this beautiful park was my playground. Along this self-same stream I fished in summer, skated in winter, and dreamed boyhood dreams the year 'round.

'Tis true that what is now a babbling brook was then a rushing river in the midst of virgin timber.

This particular scene caught my eye in the month of March, and I thought you would like it, too. How everlasting are the beauties of nature!

Well, the years have rolled by, and my playground has become your playground too. Where I fished and dreamed alone, you and others, by the hundreds now find rest and recreation under the kindly shade of the self-same trees. Well do I recall my father's comment, that some day someone would see to it that this beautiful tract would be set aside for the use of all who might come.

Thus am I made happy in the joy of others and with pride in my soul declare again

This Is My Home.



*Somers Depot—C. M. & St. Paul R. R., built about 1870.
Norman E. Thompson was station agent for 55 years.*

Pioneers

When our pioneers came, their first thought must have been a home site and its location, and how often they must have been solitary creatures, with neighbors afar, and the common conveniences of life, few.

After choosing the place where he wished to fix his home, he selected his "claim" and marked it off without the aid of a compass. This he did by stepping and staking or blazing the lines as he went.

The section lines, not being established, made it necessary to take the sun at noonday and at evening as a guide by which to decide the "claim-lines."

So many steps each way counted 320 acres (more or less) and then legal area of a "claim."

Though these "claim-lines" may have been far from correct, they answered the necessary "claim" rights, and on these, our first settlers had an understanding that, when properly surveyed, all errors would be and were righted.

The word "claim" was used by our pioneers to determine both the tract of land selected, and the right to hold the tract.

The Home

Then came the building of a house, for these who came camped on the ground or lived in their wagons, the old-time "prairie schooner," and this was their only shelter from the elements of the weather, and how contented they were with a mere log cabin or hut.

Many of these early homes were half-faced, or, as they were called "cat-faced" sheds, or "wike-ups," the Indian name for house or tent.

Usually these cabins were about fourteen feet square, made of logs split once in two, the chinks filled with earth. The roofs were of bark or sods of the prairie.

There was always a fireplace—built of stone, when available, or earth, and frequently built across the width of the cabin. Any contrivance that would carry the smoke up the chimney would do.

These great fireplaces made a comfortable refuge from the bitter cold in this, then wilderness, where mother could enjoy her knitting, and father, his pipe, if he could get his tobacco, as they rested on their rude chairs after the day's work.



Miss Katherine L. Schaeffer, a native of Somers. Missionary to Hainan, China for 33 years. Buried in China.

Sometimes, in the absence of a table, the rude door that closed the opening into their cabin, was taken from its hinges and used at meal-time. Greased paper pasted over sticks was often used as windows.

A bedstead was a most important article in those early homes and was fashioned with a forked stake driven into the ground floor diagonally from the corner of the room, at a proper distance. Upon this stake poles were laid, the wall ends resting in the openings between the logs, or the poles were driven into auger-made holes. Bark or boards were used instead of cords, and mother placed her straw tick or her home-made feather bed on these substitute cords.

These pioneer mothers gave to these rude homes a touch of artistry and comfort. We, of today, do not appreciate the trials of those who came but a century ago. The struggle was not of ease nor luxury, but a constant one in sustaining the means of life. Many times they were hungry, many times they fought the unmerciful assaults of the wild animals, sickness and disease.

When the early settlers came to Our Town, many of the women brought their spinning wheels, some designed for both flax and wool, some also had looms. Not long after their arrival flax and hemp were grown. Sheep were raised so these women made their clothing, their blankets and household linens, spinning and weaving.

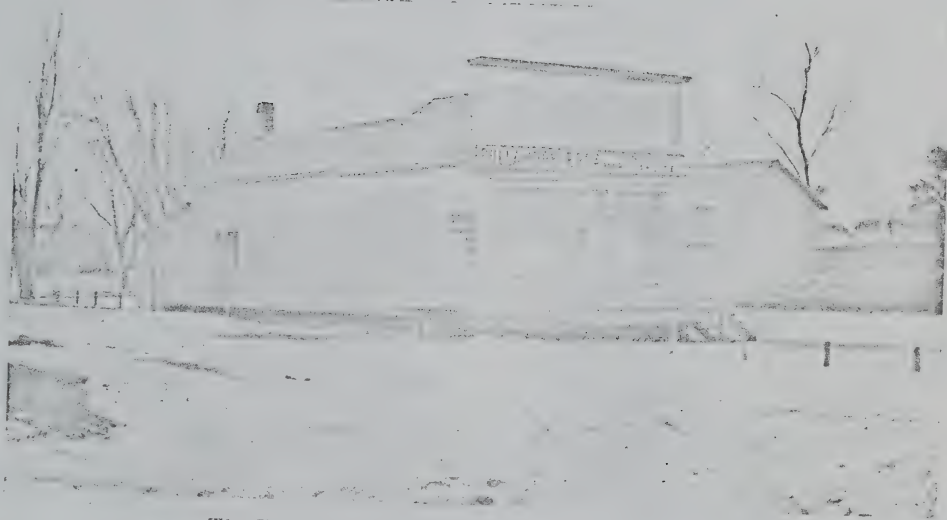
The men, with their saw and auger, drawshave and axe, not only made their log houses, but their plows, flails, and cradles, and other tools, even their wagons, excepting a little blacksmith work. They also raised hemp out of which they made ropes.

The plows of that day needed to be huge and heavy to break the prairie sod and required teams of oxen to draw them.

Early Settlers

Many came from the land of "hills and heather," others from a little island off the northern coast of France, which the Romans called Sarnia, but we call it Guernsey, the "isle of beauty and romance," others from the isles of Britain, and from Germany, and others adventured from the East, all to establish homes and rear their families in the way of life.

Among those early settlers who came and established their homes in Somers were, Charles Leet, who came from New York State in 1836 and purchased land on the Green Bay Trail, returned East for his family the next year. His son, George F. Leet, born in 1838, enlisted



The Village Store—built by Lafayette Cook about 1872.

in 1861 in the 2nd Regt. Light Artillery Co. M, afterward was transferred to Co. C and was mustered out in August, 1865. On his return, he was engaged as clerk in a dry goods and grocery store, in Kenosha, until 1867, when he returned to the farm. He married Miss Jessie Smith, a native of Somers, in 1868. Today, his grandson, Leverett F. Leet, of the fourth generation, is operating this homestead.

There migrated from the East a sturdy, thrifty group of people to this northeastern corner of Our Township, and established their homes along the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan. They found the soil in this section well adapted to the cultivation of small fruits and truck growing of vegetables. So they named it Berryville. Soon a church and school house were built. The church, a Methodist, like the Somers and Kelloggs Corners churches, employed many a student from Evans-ton, who made their maiden sermons there, and later became prominent in larger fields of work.

These early pioneers were descendants of Scotch and German parentage, also others from the Isle of Guernsey.

William and Sophia Hansche, in 1840, emigrated to America, coming on a sailing vessel which was completely wrecked off the Island of Haiti, and, with other passengers, were compelled to stay in San Domingo for twenty-one weeks. Then, after reaching America, they settled in Cleveland, Ohio for a few years (five) and then came to Somers.

William Dearsley, a native of England, emigrated with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Dearsley.

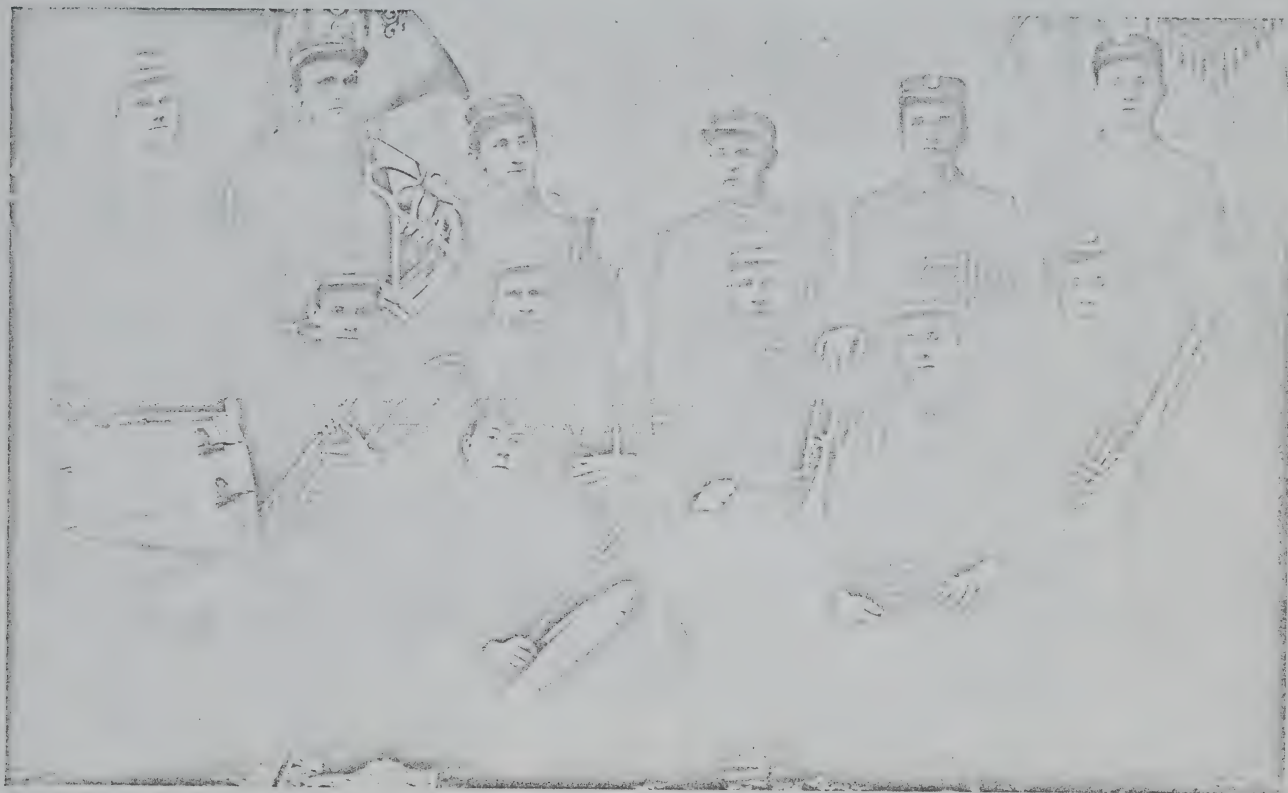
William Braid, son of John Braid, a native of Scotland, emigrated here in 1850, and located in Berryville.

A. J. Piper, son of Augustus and Margaret Braid Piper, served as Assemblyman from this district for several terms. He was very active in all civic, social, educational and religious activities of Our Town. His father, Augustus, drove from Ohio in 1849, to southern Wisconsin, and married the daughter of Thomas Braid, a native of Scotland.

William Bose and his wife, Anna Canvin, came from Germany and England, in 1846.

Mr. and Mrs. John Tennesen came in 1852.

Others who came in the early days and located at Berryville were John and Andrew Braid, Herzil Dorey, the Schecklers, Charles Barrows, the Bradleys, the Braids, the Herman Kruegers, the Ernest and Rudolph Hansches.



Somers Brass Band—Top Row: Elmer Cooper, Robert Burgess, Anton Nelson, Maurice Gould, Delbert Bishop, Burdette Burgess. Lower Row: Fred W. Leet, William Munroe, Sherman Gibbon, Adams Lytle, John G. Mitchell—Leader, Ray Mitchell—Drummer Boy.

NOTES

The Temple of Honor was organized at Kelloggs Corners by Dr. E. L. Eaton, when a young minister of the Methodist church, with a membership of 100.

In the early seventies a hay press and feed mill was built and operated by the Hughes brothers, George, John and Albert, at the young village of Somers. A disastrous fire destroyed the hay press. When the brothers retired, the feed mill was sold. For years it was carried on by Henry Lytle and sons. Today Hugh Cox is doing business on the same site. Albert Hughes, who lived outside the village, often used snow shoes during the heavy snows, to get to his work at the hay press and mill.

In the early days many of the farmers carried their milk to the cheese factory, built on the Somers Road on the bank of Pike River, a short distance west of the Green Bay Trail.

For many years a sorghum factory was in operation in the Ambrose Spencer farm, and many farmers raised fields of sugar cane for this mill.

The butter factory was operated by Louis Fenske in the village, for several years.

Many of these relics of the past have gone and are forgotten.

In the upper story of "The Old Mill" was a small door, through which the sons and grandsons of the Rev. James Ozanne delighted to look over the country, with their field glasses.

The first orchard in Our Town was on the William Stetson farm. The trees were brought overland from New York State. Cherry and apple orchards are still operated by the grandsons of William Stetson, William E. and Harry C. Thompson, on the same farm.

The first frame barn raised in Somers was for Rev. James Ozanne. The second was for Alson Felch.

Saw mills on Pike River were built and operated in 1835 by Thomas Parsons. Foster Saw Mill in 1836, operated by Benagh Burgess.

The first silo built in the state was on the Clapp farm in Somers.

Uriel Neuman brought trees from New York overland. Some are said to be still bearing fruit.

On the William Rogers farm was a greenhouse that was built in the early days.

At one of the everflowing springs near the Old Green Bay Trail was a favorite camping ground for the Indians in their migrations from



The Fairbanks Scale, made in 1850, that weighed the farmers' grain. Still in use.

camp to hunting grounds, or to their supply base. E. G. Ozanne delighted telling how he and his friend, Pete Lippert, would visit the Indian camp and of the scares he had when the chiefs in their jocular mood, wanted him to "Go long me?" This spring is known as Indian Spring.

The first women to vote in Somers were Mrs. Lulu Rhodes Leet and Mrs. Minnie A. G. Ozanne, when women were given the ballot for County Superintendent of Schools.

Rev. Herbert G. Ozanne, a grandson of Rev. James Ozanne, began his education in the Pike River School, later prepared for the ministry, and was sent as missionary to India. While there, he married an English Lady, a daughter of a missionary from England. After returning to the states he again entered the ministry, in the Methodist church.

William Anderson came in 1840 from the Isle of Guernsey. His wife, Mary, came soon after. For a time they boarded at the Charles Leet Tavern on the Green Bay Trail. He built his blacksmith shop on the Springs Road, now the south border of the Petrifying Springs Park. Later, he purchased a tract of land farther north on the Old Trail, and moved his shop. He made, by hand, the horse shoes and nails for the farmers' horses, square spike and nails used in many of the homes and buildings in this locality. Another thing he brought to this community beside his vise and all his tools, was a slate on which he kept his daily record of work, transferring it to his ledger in the evening.

Our Town has been represented in the state legislature by Isaac T. Bishop, as Senator, Conrad Shearer, Senator; P. M. Anderson and August J. Piper, as Assemblymen, also Jonas W. Rhodes, Assemblyman.

Raymond Piper, son of the Frank Pipers, now occupies the chair of Philosophy in the Syracuse University of New York State. He was a student at the Berryville school.

It is said in 1884 the first mail train went through Somers township from Chicago to Milwaukee, over the Chicago Northwestern Railway.

In January of 1947 we received a very interesting letter from John Vogel, whose home is now in Kenyon, Minnesota. He told of attending school at Kelloggs Corners, when about seven years of age. His teacher was Miss Perkins, and of how often he had a refreshing drink of water from "The Old Oaken Bucket That Hung In The Well." His father was Adrian Vogel. He had two sisters and four brothers, all deceased. At this writing, he is 93 years of age, hale and hearty.



*Home of Peter Bushman—Civil War Vet. Somers Road.
He marched with General Sherman "To the Sea."*

Today, Mrs. Peter Mueller owns the vise and many of the tools William Anderson brought many years ago, from that little isle in the English Channel. Guernsey.

Samuel T. Rice came from New York in 1841. For many years he followed the building trade. He was serving as Road Commissioner at the time our State changed from Territorial to State Government. His oldest son, Orville, enlisted in the 1st Wis. V. I., later was transferred to 21st, and was with General Sherman on his famous march to the Sea. He was lost during the latter part of the war.

Miss Emma Stanbridge, a native of England, and her brother, William, settled on a farm on what is now the Wood Road, in 1861. In 1862 she visited her old home in England, where she remained about a year.

Daniel W. Rease, who came from New York in 1840, located on the farm his father, James Reas, had purchased in 1839. His family of three children, Clayton, Harvey and Edith, moved to California.

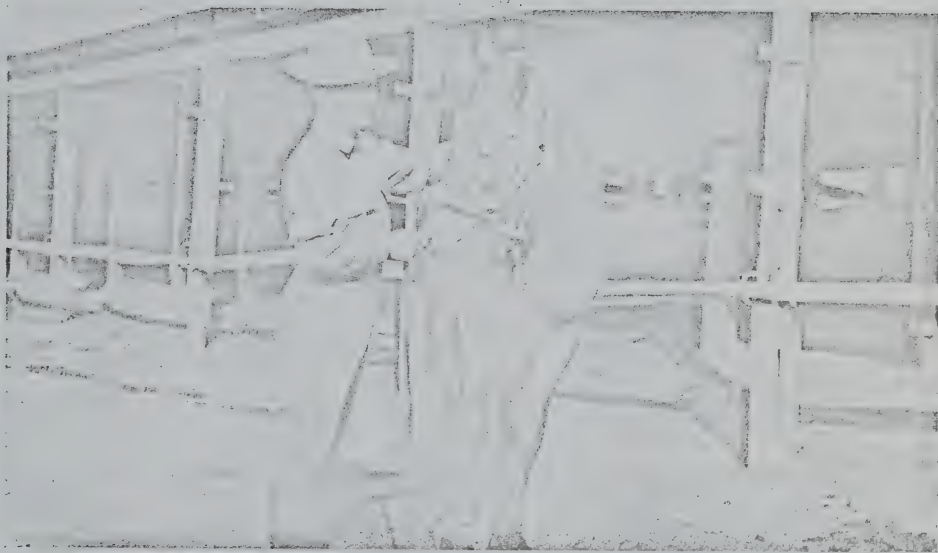
James G. Gardinier came from New York in 1856 and engaged in farming. On August 14, 1862 he enlisted in the 33rd Wis. V. I. Among the battles he served in were the Battle of Jackson, Mississippi, and the siege of Vicksburg, and he was mustered out with the regiment in 1865. He was married to Miss Marie Cobb, a native of New York. They had three children, Ellsworth J., Edwin, and James J.

Phillip Drissel, a native of Prussia, came to Somers in 1862. He enlisted in the 31st Wis. V. I. and returned to his farm after being mustered out in 1865.

John Braid, a native of Scotland, came to Somers in 1855, and located on a heavily timbered farm, which he cleared. He served as Township Assessor in 1869.

In 1857 Samuel Barnes, a native of England, located on a farm in Somers. In 1850 he married Miss Catherine Hale of England. He served as Township Treasurer for some time. Their children were Vischer, Phillip, William, Carrie, and Edward.

Philander T. Briggs came from Vermont in 1850. In 1851 he built a house in Somers and in 1852 moved his family into it. He followed farming until enlisting in the 4th W. V. I., July 2, 1861. This regiment was later transferred to 4th Wis. Cav., where he served until August, 1864. His son, Lydon, enlisted in 7th Wis. Battery and served three years. Another son, James, enlisted in 1st Wis. V. I. and was wounded in the battle of Perryville; after recovery he was re-enlisted, and served to the close of the war.



Col. Theodore Tabbert and Lady. Col. Tabbert served his country for 34 years through the Mexican Wars and World War I, and II.

William Smith was born in Scotland, and when a young man of 32 years, he came to America in 1831 and purchased 160 acres of land where the city of Milwaukee now stands. While there he built what was probably the first lime kiln in Wisconsin. In 1836 he located in Somers, where he lived until his death. One Sunday morning two young men were shooting pigeons on his farm, and as he ordered them off, one of the men fired at him, shooting his right arm off entirely.

The Coonleys, and the Chaffes, and the Pedleys, the LePoidevins, the LeProvosts, too, located along the Green Bay Trail, and the Ingro-villes. The Herzil Doreys settled on the Lake Shore, and were truck and small fruit growers.

Henry Harvey, who came from Lincolnshire, England to Wisconsin in 1854, located at Kelloggs Corners. He joined the 2nd Wisconsin Cavalry during the Civil War, and two years after the close of the War, 1867, he, with his family and three neighbors and their families fitted their Prairie Schooners and trecked across country to southeastern Nebraska, where they established their homes on the Western Prairies. Your narrator made her home with this Harvey family, while teaching in Nebraska. Indians had a camping ground near the Western school house.

John Bisher came from the Isle of Guernsey. When he was fourteen years of age he came to this country and made his home at Berryville. In 1861 he enlisted in Company B 17th Wisconsin V. I., and served through the war. Then he followed the carpenter's trade, erecting many of the residences in Our Town.

Charles Rhodes came from the east, New York, in the early days, and took up a large acreage of land in Our Town. He remained here but a short time, and was followed by his brother, Jonas W. Rhodes, also from New York, who took over the acquired property. Jonas W. Rhodes was a public spirited man, interested in the civic, educational, and social life of the town. He served as Assemblyman from this district, was Township Chairman for many years. His son, William J. Rhodes, followed his father in the interest of the community, being Township Chairman for many years, and Clerk of the Burr Oak School for 13 years. His son, Jay W. Rhodes, is carrying on in the same way, having served on the Township Board for more than 20 years, and for 35 consecutive years, has been a member of the School Board.

Alexander Yule and his wife came from the Land of Hills and Heather in 1840, and settled in Our Town. Mr. Yule was twice married and had a family of seven children by his first marriage, and nine



The Charles Leet home built in the early days on the Green Bay Trail where the Toll Gate on the Plank Road through Our Town was located. The first Township Meetings were held in the dining room. Home is now occupied by the Leet brothers. Charles Leet, who came in early days, was a veteran of the War of 1812.

by the second union. Benjamin F. was a son of the second family. He was born in 1851 in Our Town, where he lived his entire life. For some forty years he followed the carpenter's trade.

Lafayette and Elliot Cook were sons of Elijah Cook and came here in the early days. These brothers married Emmaretta and Caroline Burgess, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Alonzo Burgess, granddaughters of the Chauncey Kellogg's.

Peter Ozanne, a native of St. Martins, Guernsey, was born in 1827. When a boy of eleven years he accompanied his father, Rev. James Ozanne, on a tour through France, and at the age of fifteen came with his parents to America, they having chartered a vessel for that purpose. They sailed up the Great Lakes, landing in Racine, then a small hamlet, on June 18, 1842. July 4th his father purchased 320 acres of land in Section 10 of Our Township.

He married Miss Mary Ann LeMessurier also of the Isle of Guernsey. For many years Peter Ozanne served Our Town as its Clerk and also as Treasurer; and the Pike River School District as its Clerk for years.

The Jacob and Fanny Potter Bishop family who came from the East were among the earliest settlers in Our Town. Mrs. Bishop was a direct descendant of General Potter, one of the famous leaders of the American troops in the War of the Revolution.

Jacob Bishop was the first Clerk in School District Number One. They reared a large family; among their sons was Abram Bishop who built the first store in Our Town and was an early postmaster.

Isaac T. Bishop, another son, was a soldier in the War of the Rebellion. He held many civic offices in Our Town, also served as a member of the State Legislature for two terms.

Ambrose Spencer was born in New York State in 1818. He was educated in West Point, but later retired from military life and took up agricultural pursuits, locating in Somers in the early days. He was the father of James E. Spencer who was prominent in the civic and educational activities of Our Town. For many years he served as Township Clerk.

August Swartz and his family came from Germany in 1849 by way of the Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi River. They landed at what is now St. Louis, Missouri. The wife and one daughter contracted cholera and died. The rest of the family travelled on to Milwaukee where they remained for a few months before coming to Somers. Two sons, John Jacob and William Swarts, enlisted with the 3rd Wisconsin Volunteers



*Fannie Annie, pet deer, Petrifying Springs Park, having her portion of bread.
Custodian E. G. Ozanne.*

and marched with General Sherman on that memorable "March to the Sea."

William Swarts, on his return from the war, built the foundation for the first and second school buildings on the Wood Road. John Jacob Swartz carried on the nursery business that is now operated by the fourth generation of Swartz's.

Phillip Gascoigne and his wife came to Our Town in the earliest day of its settlement from France. He built a saw mill on Pike River. During the Civil War he served as a Recruiting Officer. Later he went to Nebraska and engaged in the cattle business and was killed at the age of 102 years by a bull while driving a herd of cattle into Omaha.

Miss Louise Carre, who became the wife of Sanford S. Strong, came from Guernsey with the Rev. James Ozanne family, in 1842.

Alexander Spence and his wife, Isabell Mitchell Spence, following their marriage in 1836, came from Scotland, and for about two years lived in Canada. Coming to Somers in September of 1838, they settled on the Spence Homestead, later moving to the Village. Both were charter members of the Presbyterian Church.

Joseph Bradley came to Our Town in May, 1842, and bought land on what is now Racine and Kenosha County Line Road, at \$3.50 per acre.

Mrs. Peter Mueller of the Green Bay Trail still owns the vise and many of the tools of William Anderson, brought many years ago from that little isle in the English Channel, Guernsey.

John Bisher came from the Isle of Guernsey when a boy of fourteen years. In 1861 he enlisted in Company B, 17th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and served throughout the entire Civil War. On his return to Our Town, he engaged in carpentering, building many of the fine residences.

Our Town, Somers, early called Pike, was tucked into "Milwalky" County in 1836.

When our first settlers came the grass in the lowland areas was often so tall that it would entirely conceal a horse and its rider.

Hugh Longmore and Alison Felch were among the very earliest pioneers who came and remained. Garret Stuart and Barnett Stuart, who came, remained but a short time.

In 1870 when the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad was being built through Our Town, Miss Margaret Robertson, whose home was on the Green Bay Trail, was teaching the Kellogg's Corners School.



*Seventy-two loads of Somers cabbage waiting for shipment at the Chicago,
Milwaukee & St. Paul R. R. tracks at Somers.*

It was the custom for some member of the family to drive over and get her for the weekend at home.

On this certain Friday afternoon when, as the railroad was being laid across the Racine-Kenosha County line road, her sister, Miss Belle Robertson, arrived just as the rails were laid. To drive across was impossible. So the workmen volunteered—one led the horse and several others picked up the light buggy by the wheels and carried it across and carefully set it down on the other side of the track, and the Robertson sisters travelled on home without having to detour.

Lake Shore Railway

On May 19, 1855 at 10:30 o'clock A. M., the laying of the last rail on the Lake Shore Railway from Chicago to Milwaukee, passing through Our Town, was completed. Short speeches were made by the mayor of Chicago and also the mayor of Milwaukee. Flags were raised, bells rung.

At 11:00 o'clock that morning, seven passenger cars came from Chicago containing citizens of Chicago and "Aukegan" starting for Milwaukee. The ride was a free one—invited guests going. The excursion returned from Milwaukee at 6:00 P. M. without accident.

This railway is now The Chicago and Northwestern passenger line.

"Great Western"

The steamboat "Great Western" sailed along the shore of Our Town in the early days. On July 6, 1842 this boat stopped at Southport (now Kenosha) and received a shipment of wool; the first shipped from our state, Wisconsin. Ex-president Van Buren was a passenger on that day.

In the early days, the shore line of Lake Michigan was not that of today. The lake has slowly eaten away much of the shore line of the 1830's and '40's, taking the land and buildings of many of our early settlers. One account tells us that 40 acres were thus eroded and that Pike Creek then had three mouths.

Wreck of the Courtright

During a severe storm on Lake Michigan some 65 years ago a freight steamer was wrecked on the lake shore beach abutting the land belonging to Edward Birch, an early pioneer of Our Town.

This freighter was carrying a load of lumber, flour and other merchandise to Chicago.

The morning after the storm, Mr. Birch went to look at the beach as was his custom after severe storms, and he found the sail vessel with its load of lumber piled twenty feet high on the beach and twisted in every shape. The captain and his crew came ashore in a yawl.

For the next two weeks, Captain Durgon and the first mate, William Tibbetts, lived at the Edward Birch home and they engaged the help of the farmers in the neighborhood and many men from the city to help save what lumber they could.

They built slides and bound the boards together, then pulled them up on land with horses. The broken lumber was given to Edward Birch and he built many rods of fencing with it. Considerable flour was also saved and distributed among the settlers in the neighborhood.

Captain Durgon went out in his yawl and brought in the compass and other things of value before the vessel went to pieces. Among the things he saved from the cabin was a potato smasher which he gave to Mrs. Birch. A relic she kept for many years.

"Resique War"

"Resique War" was a lively chapter in our early history. Despite the fact that there was no trouble with the Indians, the early days were not uneventful.

The county, in those days, filled with roving adventurers. Some seeking homes for their families, while others merely seeking to make money.

The new residents along Pike Creek had hardly become established in their new homes for a month when outsiders began to intrude on their rights and out of this began what was known as "The Resique War," which serves to show something of the spirit of the times and to the extent to which the squatters would go to protect their rights.

In the month of July, 1835, two adventurers, Samuel Resique and John Noble, came from Chicago in search of advantageous locations, which they might claim and later sell on speculation. They found on following the lake shore this territory was already staked out.

But lured by the many natural attractions, however, they planned to spend several days in this locality. As they travelled northward they came unexpectedly upon Pike Creek, finding plowed furrows and other

signs that plainly told them homes were established. John Noble remained for a time while Samuel Resique travelled on in search of other attractions.

Finis

These stories of My Memoirs have been growing together for a span of time. Sometimes coming together like parcels in a basket; sometimes growing together like blossoms on a bush.

Sometimes in travelling over these once beaten trails, with my little Model T, my thoughts take me to those days, when, those who came and left to us, a splendid heritage—Your Town, and My Town, of which we are a part.

To we, who are a part of Somers, there is so much—just a little bit of the world—with its splendid agricultural region—its industrial facilities—its unexcelled highway system—its natural recreational advantages—its scenic beauty—its colorful historical background.

F 222222

